Daily Report

Latin America

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FBIS-LAT-94-155 *11 August 1994*

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Cuba

Castro Willing To 'Sacrifice Socialism' for Integration, Peace

PA1008134494 Paris AFP in Spanish 0936 GMT 10 Aug 94

[Text] Madrid, 10 Aug (AFP)—In an interview published by the Madrid newspaper EL PAIS on 10 August, Cuban President Fidel Castro has said that he would be willing to "sacrifice socialism."

The interview was granted to five Colombian journalists on Monday in Santa Fe de Bogota where the Cuban leader was attending the inauguration of President Ernesto Samper.

"What would you be willing to give up [conceder] to achieve reconciliation with the United States?" the journalists asked.

Castro replied that "if principles, the country's sovereignty, and the revolution's achievements are involved, we are willing to give up nothing. We do not want to become a Puerto Rico."

He added that "we would be willing to sacrifice our particular political preferences, such as socialism, in exchange for integration, peace, and social justice. I am referring to the hope I harbor that Latin America will do this one day."

Castro 8 Aug Solidarity Group Speech

FL1108133194 Havana Cuba Vision Network in Spanish 0027 GMT 11 Aug 94

[Speech by President Fidel Castro at a meeting with Cuban solidarity groups in Santa Fe de Bogota, Colombia, on 8 August—recorded]

[Text] Dear Colombian brothers and sisters: I have been wondering what to say in the midst of so many feelings and emotions. Of course there is much I can say, but not everything should be said. [laughter, applause]

Talking to you, among friends and brothers, and knowing the sentiments that are in your minds and hearts, there is a lot I can say. As a guest, however, as a guest of this marvelous Colombian representation, I find it necessary to bear in mind the nature of this meeting, which as you said is a multiparty one. If I could only enter the hearts and minds of each of you. So many things are probably in your minds and in your thoughts, and you are probably wishing many things.

For me, however, the most important aspect of this meeting, the most valuable and the most meaningful aspect is the fact that people with different criteria, different opinions have gathered here to express the sentiments of friendship, support, and solidarity for our country and our revolution, our fatherland and our struggle, and for the efforts of our people. That shows us what the Colombian people are all about. That is what gives this meeting its meaning. If were to I conduct a poll I can imagine what the great majority of you would like to do, but we must respect the opinions of those who do not think quite like we do. [applause]

That is why I was glad the senator spoke... [applause] and expressed his ideas and his thoughts. They differ from those of a great majority of you here today, but he has made a significant contribution. Now they cannot say later that this was just a meeting of troublemakers... [applause] sectarians, extremists. Do you have any idea how many adjectives they use nowadays to refer to the noble and good people, the best people? Now, no one will be able to use any of those adjectives in discussing our meeting. It just gives our meeting more beauty, more radiance, and more sincerity.

The values that all of us here share, regardless of ideologies or philosophies, as was said, are supreme, sacred values. They are the values of homeland, independence, freedom, justice, solidarity, fraternity, companionship, and love for causes we regard as just. I am sure all of these values unite all of us here today. While listening to the speakers, who spoke so beautifully, enhancing the Spanish language with the best of their words, my thoughts turned to the first time I had the privilege of visiting Bogota. I was a 21-year-old third-year student. I do not think that ideals and the spirit of struggle vanish with the passage of time. [applause]

Many illusions, purposes, and dreams came to my mind. At the time, we used to say, and still do, that Puerto Rico is Latin American, that it is ours, and that it must be independent. At the time, we said that the Panama Canal belonged to the Panamanian people and that it must be returned to them. We spoke about the terrible situation in Central America, a situation created by the Somozas and Trujillos—all those genocidal people whom the empire placed there to defend its interests. We even said that the Malvinas [Falkland] Islands belonged to Argentina. We said that there should not be any colonies in this hemisphere. We mentioned the need for Latin America's unity and integration. Our program was not Marxist-Leninist. We cannot say it was a socialist program because at the time we did not even know what socialism was. We are living in a time of crisis. Many people in the world still do not know what socialism really is.

We were already walking down this path. Well-oriented and with good leadership, people march forward, even reach goals. If someone defends just ideas he can go as far as—respecting beliefs—Christ did, even though he was crucified; and Marx did, even though they are crucifying him now. [applause]

My own thoughts evolved rapidly. My contact with revolutionary literature made me a revolutionary. I remember that, by that time, I had read more about the French Revolution than about Marx. I confess that I liked it very much. I used to read, well past midnight,

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any and all books I could find about the French Revolution and all the ideas that all revolutions have contributed to mankind. Each new revolution contributes new ideas.

I had all this in mind when I arrived in Bogota.

And of course, we wanted to hold a student congress, because we thought that we students should be united. And there was no Latin American student organization. And a group of Cubans, including me, met with Venezuelans and Panamanians—at that time there was great agitation in Panama because of the Canal, because of the massacres that had been perpetrated there by the occupation troops in the country, and there was the revolution of Venezuela with Romulo Gallegos, who had been elected president.

And with these currents, with these forces we established, in a relatively short time, the bases to create this organization, and we wanted to hold a congress. In those days there was going to be a pan-American meeting. You know what pan-Americanism has stood for. It has been... [pauses] well, bread for the Yankees—that just occurred to me. [applause] Homeland for the Yankees, continent for the Yankees, which is what they always wanted and now want more than ever.

The foreign ministers met and it occurred to us that the U.S. imperialism's philosophers would say: It is the kind of thing young people do. We wanted to make our student congress coincide with this pan-American congress. They were two very different things. We arrived and met with the students from the University of Bogota, a great majority of whom were very combative and very progressive youths.

I recall that there was great agitation in the country in those days. There was much violence. I remember that the newspapers read: 50 people died in this place, 80 died in that place. I would hold my head in my hands because, although we had had many violent situations in Cuba, we could not imagine this kind of situation would occur there. This is how the students put us in contact with Gaitan's movement and with Gaitan. They offered to ask him to help organize our congress. We visited him and he was quite willing, even very enthusiastic, and he wanted to hold a ceremony to inaugurate or close the congress. On the 7th [April 1948] we held a meeting between him and the students at his office. He gave us material and leaflets, among them, I still remember a flier entitled: A Prayer for Peace. It caught my attention very much because that was not the language used in Cuba. In Cuba there was much rhetoric and diatribe, each word said was very harsh. I marvelled at the elegance and skill reflected by those words, such as the ones in the famous March of Silence. That is what we were involved in. I have already told you how I felt a few minutes ago.

Who could have predicted the tremendous developments that occurred only hours later? We were going to visit Gaitan at 1400. We were waiting at the hotel and were on our way to his office when we heard people everywhere shouting: Gaitan has been assassinated. Gaitan has been assassinated. There was a really big explosion. We experienced it; it was not something that could be organized: the just people exploded.

Well, Alape knows more than I do about that. Alape is aware of what I saw. I told him in a lengthy early morning interview. [applause] But Alape knows what dozens and hundreds of people have reported and he has been able to reconstruct the general situation or the main developments, because I have learned much from Alape's book on the situation which occurred. In fact, our life here became dramatically (?intertwined) with the lives of the Colombian people. What did we do, when our heads were full of patriotic ideas, revolutionary ideas, progressive ideas?

We began living the experience, from what we read in books, and partly also from what we had read in our own country.

I remember well that my first efforts in the street to try to persuade people, the crowds, not to smash shop windows, not to destroy anything. I already had some idea on how to start a revolution and more or less what should be done.

So many things happened to me in 48 hours—things that I believe have never happened to anyone during a whole lifetime. I only know that I joined the first advance column and ended up at a police station. [laughter] The column was unarmed, and there were many policemen. We had no weapons, but the police did not fire on us. I know this is a delicate topic, but practically the whole police force joined the popular movement. Who can be a better witness than someone who got hold of a rifle? Well, what I managed to get hold of was not even a rifle. It was more like a tear gas shotgun with a bunch of big wooden bullets. [laughter] They looked more like cannonballs. A lieutenant told me: You will explode with all that! He gave me his rifle and I was delighted. [laughter] That is how I managed to get hold of a rifle and 14 rounds. I won't tell you the other things because Alape has already told them, more or less.

Everything happened to us; this all occurred in a matter of hours. But I can say that one of the best things that I have done in my life, the purest and most unselfish things, is what I did during those days when I joined the people and ran all sorts of risks thousands of kilometers away from my homeland; my family didn't know anything. I went through so many adventures that I ended up in the Fifth Precinct, but not as a prisoner, no. I ended up in the Fifth Precinct with about 400 policemen who had rebelled.

I won't tell you why I ended up there, but three students had already... [pauses] Since I had a rifle I can tell you that there is nothing worse than having the only rifle in a group of many people without rifles. [laughter] They all

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want you and you alone, with your rifle and 14 bullets to win the battles of Boyaca, Junin, and Ayacucho, all at once. [laughter] The students even asked me to take over the police garrison because we had already made a foiled attempt at the university to rescue some students who were cornered after they had taken over a police station. In all we had one rifle and 14 bullets. We all went to take it over, unlike the first time, when we went in a great column of students and me with one rifle to take over the police station. The lucky part was—I was very lucky during those days—that when we got there the station had already been taken over. [laughter, applause] Let me tell you, on Seventh Avenue, which I will never forget because of the many episodes we experienced there, we met up with a whole battalion. What we did not know was the battalion's position—it had tanks up front!

We stepped aside, near the War Ministry, in a pretty park where I believe there are a still a few trees left. [laughter] We stood near some benches. Fortunately, the battalion paid us no attention. We then crossed where there was a big building with railings. I stood on top of a bench as if I were possessed by Don Quixote, as if I were crazed by the French Revolution, haranguing the troops to join the revolution, but without realizing that I was in front of the War Ministry! [laughter] At last we saw a bus had been brought to help the students, and we went over there.

We did not even realize that a patrol had gone out to look for us. We did not even notice. Well—to think I promised I would not tell you much—we ended at the Fifth Precinct but for me that was an exceptional evening because all night long the station was waiting for the attack. Garrisoned troops are a waste.

I made a suggestion to the chief of the troops: Go out on the streets; let the troops loose on the streets so they can pursue targets; avoid getting cornered and destroyed—but he followed the old tactics. What you do most often in a war is make mistakes. There they were waiting for the attack. I was there, all by myself. I thought about my family. I remembered everything. In times like this you must adopt a decision. I knew the tactics [words indistinct] were wrong. Many people wanted my rifle. I wondered if I should leave. I reasoned with myself and said: Well, I am here but no one in my family in Cuba knows where I am. I was alone; I was completely alone at that moment.

I wondered about the causes which lead these people to struggle, to rebel, following the leader's assassination. The causes are the same, the righteous causes. My internationalist judgment is that they are the same causes in any part of the world. There is no reason to defend each noble cause, each righteous cause only in the fatherland. One needs to know how to defend these causes anywhere in the world one might happen to be. [applause]

I decided to stay, and I did until the end because the actions had ended, the fighting had ended, and there was a truce. Since two Cubans had been seen there they were being blamed for everything. [laughter] It was said there were some Cubans, some foreigners, who had organized themselves. This was a difficult and miraculous situation. It was a young people's thing. When we arrived in the hotel, which was small and hospitable... [changes thought] it was the Claridge Hotel. It no longer exists. There is now a parking lot there; cars are destroying everything. [laughter]

Everyone told us: They are looking for you, and we went to a boardinghouse where two other Cubans were lodged. Curfew was at 1800. At 1750 there was an argument with the boardinghouse owner. He started to say horrible things. He had the wrong ideas and, instead of being discreet and prudent for once in my life, I started to argue and won what I won: We were asked to leave. It was 1755. We left. It was a miracle that we were able to reach the Granada Hotel. There we were able to ask a diplomat to take us to— he was a daring diplomat. He was an Argentine and he had even been helping [words indistinct]. He met us with these words: You have certainly gotten yourselves in a predicament! Alape here may say that I certainly have a memory. It is not memorizing information, Alape, it is love for Colombia. [applause; someone in the crowd shouts: "Our friend, Colombia is on your side."]

I cannot not forget because we used to be young and most of you are young. One could not remember many telephone numbers, but when a pretty girl gave hers one did not forget. [laughter] One did not even need [chuckles] to write it down; it was memorized. It is impossible to forget those exciting, tremendous, dramatic days that were in the memory of people of our age at that time. I have not forgotten anything. It cannot possibly be forgotten. I forget nothing, nothing, nothing—absolutely nothing. That is why I protest. I don't have a bad memory yet, and I hope to keep my memory for as long as possible. Those are exceptional things; they are exceptional and are never forgotten.

That was 46 years ago. They amaze me and make me wonder: have I lived that long? [laughter] Has it been that long? Forty-six years without coming to Bogota. Forty-six years. There have been changes of all kinds in the world. Good and bad. More bad than good especially in recent times.

[Text] There have been changes in Latin America, changes in Latin America's attitude toward Cuba. There is no longer a total blockade. All Latin American countries are not pledged to the U.S. blockade against Cuba. They began to move away—starting with the Caribbean countries. They slowly [words indistinct] regardless of the political differences.

Other priorities have begun governing the treatment Cuba receives from most Latin American countries. All Latin American peoples, except the Mexicans, had broken relations with Cuba and had joined the blockade. This will permit you to understand the importance for

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our country, especially today more than ever, when we are subjected to a double blockade, because we practically do not have any commerce with former socialist countries and with Russia. Practically no commerce. Our people are going through very difficult times, and they must wage a heroic battle, as you know. We have lost all of our markets, our credits, our trade relations, when 70 percent of imports were lost.

I wonder whether any other country could have been able to resist this. That is why, when you pay tribute of friendship, recognition, and support to our people I am moved, because I am witnessing our people's heroic and valiant effort today more than ever. I am witnessing how our people have been able to resist when they were left alone, when the Socialist bloc collapsed, when the USSR disintegrated, and our entire economy and production were associated with the economy and the production of those countries. We were isolated and blockaded. You may have an idea about our difficult task and struggle and our people's presence of mind. They did not become demoralized. They remained firm, remain firm today, and will remain firm in this struggle, and they will be ready to pay whatever price is necessary. [applause]

This is why we, aside from political and ideological differences, appreciate very much the current drift toward Cuba in Latin America and the fact that we are invited to attend events and are allowed to participate in Latin American summits, which is an important step. The fact that we have been admitted as member of the Association of Caribbean States is another very important step.

You know the Yankees have now called a summit, in Miami no less. No one knows what will be discussed there, because they do not know themselves. They know what they want, but they do not know how to convey the lies they invent, the maneuvers they plan. [applause] Cuba has been excluded. We would be happy if some Latin American countries take the opportunity to tell all of the truths that need to be told at a summit of this kind. They felt envy of Latin American summits and invented this one. Of course, Cuba—the demon—could not be there.

Among those who spoke, one mentioned the bucketfuls of infamy, of trash they will likely throw at Cuba. They have been doing this for dozens of years by using the mass media apparatus—the most powerful one that has ever existed in the world. Ever. Therefore, our small country, your little Latin American brother country, has faced the most powerful imperialist empire in history. What was Rome compared to what the United States is today? What were Nero's torches, as history tells us, compared to the thousands of nuclear weapons the empire has today? What was Rome's money, or any other empire's money, compared with the money, the economic power, the political power, the military power they have.

They have power over the minds and consciences of the people because their mass media sources have been established to plant lies. [applause] They plow the earth and humanity to have a perpetual crop of lies. They tell lies about everything that is good, just, and everything that rebels against their hegemony and control. They have dedicated many years to that particular crop. It would seem that Cuba is the only adversary they have left. They concentrate all of their efforts against Cuba. This is the way it is. Cuba is willing to resist everything and wage this battle with honor and (?dignity). If we were to stress the issue, I do not think any honorable man in the world would rather to be humiliated or subjected to such offensive conditions than to die. To die is a natural law. We all have to die. It is better to die....[pauses] the oppressors, the exploiters will also die, but they will not die with honor. [applause]

I, just like you, have faith and hope in the world and believe the world will change. It has to change once we manage to save it, because not only do these barbarians threaten to do way with everything noble in the world, but they also threaten to destroy it. They threaten to finish off the rivers, the seas, the valleys, the air, with their consumer societies and their barbarian way of life. They live like barbarians, although they believe they are the pinnacle of civilization.

The world will have to be saved. The world has to advance and continue advancing. It is still advancing today because many are returning from the fantasies and deceptions to which they had been led. Many have discovered what a terrible world we have under the hegemony of the United States. However, this world is very difficult to govern. Imperialism wants to dominate the planet, but it will not be able to do so. Everyone knows that sometimes it is difficult to govern even your own house. You can imagine the trouble Mr. Clinton and others will have in smoothing out this world, which is a mountain of problems—all kinds of problems everywhere. They are facing an ungovernable world and a humanity that cannot be dominated.

Nevertheless, if you represent the symbol of friendship, the solidarity of a large part of humanity with Cuba, and the people who give us support, if you were the only ones, I assure you that the world will not be dominated, and I assure you that our modest revolution, which is the product of our people's heroic efforts, will never be defeated. As long as there are men and women like you in the world, there will be dignity, freedom, and hope in the world. Thank you. [applause]

Envoy to Belgium To Seek EU Mediation To Lift Embargo

BR1008135694 Brussels DE MORGEN in Dutch 10 Aug 94 p 12

[Article signed FS: "Cuba Will Implement Reforms, But Will Do So Itself"]

[Text] "Will recent events push us faster down the road toward democracy? We have had a democracy since

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1959, when Batista's dictatorship of torture was chased out. Our democracy is not yet perfect, and we are in favor of reforms, but the Cubans themselves must decide what is to happen."

Those were the words of Carlos Alzugaray Treto, Cuban ambassador to Belgium and the European Union (EU), who spoke yesterday [9 August] at the first news conference he has given in Brussels. Naturally, the violent events of last weeks and the impact they caused were the direct reason for the invitation sent to the press.

However, what took place was not what was generally expected: It was not just another trotting out of well-known political positions, but at times it was an open debate. The obligatory outburst at the Western press was also made. The press had once again not presented things properly: There were not masses of anti-Castro demonstrators, just 700 to 1000 individuals.

The picture of the enemy was also the familiar one, of course. "What is happening in Cuba was also created by the United States. After more than 30 years of trade embargo, the economic situation is rather difficult and that increases the people's desire to emigrate. Consequently, they are economic and not political refugees. This phenomenon is also seen in Mexico and other central American countries. Cuba is special, however, because it has had to cope with the embargo and because it is permanently hit by radio propaganda calling for acts of vandalism. Cuba is also special because boat hijackers are never prosecuted in the United States, but are automatically granted a residence permit. Anyone who is caught coming in from Mexico or elsewhere is systematically deported. The United States sends back all potential refugees, but Cubans are accepted in principle. Since 1974, there has even been a bilateral legal agreement governing emigrant quotas, but it has not been applied by the United States. If need be, we simply have to open up the borders so that anyone who wants to can leave for the United States."

The ambassador spoke calmly and deliberately. "We are fed up with the United States always spewing out hot air, saying that Cuba supposedly engages in massive violations of human rights. The United States, which is now getting so worked up about the military junta in Haiti, is to blame for the fact that these military men are in control there. They trained them and during the dictatorships of Duvalier and Baby Doc, they protected them. Back then, and not just now, Cuba protested against the rulers in Haiti. Now Washington is threatening military intervention, which would represent a threat for the entire region. Finally, we have invited the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights to Cuba."

Carlos Alzugaray Treto feels that the EU can play a role as mediator in the conflict, "because various EU members already have rather normal relations with Cuba." Here he is thinking, of course, not just of Spain and Portugal, but also France and Great Britain. "Mexico and Canada, which are closer to us, have already requested that the embargo be lifted. The EU could do that too," the ambassador said.

Naturally, the United States is petrified about Cuba's threat to open up its borders for anyone who wants to go to the United States. For this reason, it wants "to do everything necessary" to prevent another 10,000 Cubans from fleeing to Florida, as happened 14 years ago. A spokesman for the U.S. State Department made it known that last weekend U.S. diplomats held an emergency consultation with Cuban officials to forestall a fresh exodus. The Cuban ambassador would neither deny nor confirm this in Brussels yesterday. He did think, however, that such a measure may not be needed if people manage to gradually implement a series of reforms.

He also felt that not everything was going wrong. This is what Carlos Alzugaray Treto deduced from the demonstration by 600,000 people that took place on Sunday in Havana. "This shows that the government and President Castro have the support of the people. Our system is democratic. It is not perfect, but it is democratic. A one-party system need not stand in the way of democracy."

'Straight Talk' Views Malecon Incident

FL1008132594 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 9 Aug 94

["Straight Talk" program with host Osvaldo Rodriguez of BOHEMIA magazine and Fernando Davalos of BOHEMIA magazine]

[Text] [Rodriguez] Davalos, I believe that in light of the events that we have just gone through in Havana City recently—the boat hijackings; the street disturbances lead, first of all, by common criminals and which were vigorously repelled by the people of Havana City—after several days have gone by we should analyze the causes and origins behind this type of revolt. These revolts are not spontaneous. Every time we broach this issue I always stress that this is not a spontaneous revolt. There is something behind it that organizes and promotes this to type of thing. What do you think?

[Davalos] I believe that we must go back in time and summarize a bit: The U.S. authorities of the U.S. Interests Section in Havana are very selective and set a tremendous amount of requirements. They have the people that want to immigrate in a bottleneck situation. They do not allow them to go by that means. Those requirements, that selectiveness, is very much in contrast with the type of individuals that they are receiving, illegally. One would then ask, what is this? First they deny legal entry to normal people and then they allow entry to those that are capable of hijacking a boat?

I believe that it is interesting to analyze the personalities of these two types of people. I believe that the people that steal a boat... [rephrases] What type of individuals are they? They are hijackers; they are people that commit

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crimes; they are people that are capable of killing, as they did kill Gabriel Lamoth. They are people that throw other people and bicycles into the sea. They are people that expose a group of passengers on an intrabay transport boat to the dangers of the open seas. What kind of people are they? They are criminals.

[Rodriguez] I would go even further. Even though a murderer is a criminal, murderer is a stronger term than criminal. I believe that these people are murderers. Without a shadow of a doubt, someone that would do something like this are potential murderers, apart from the specific case of the murder of Lamoth. Anyone that would kidnap a child, is a murderer.

[Davalos] Yes. There is no other name that can be given to these people. Life has demonstrated this already, they have presented their credentials doing these things. However there is something strange, with the Mariel boat lift the U.S. authorities complained when a great number of individuals went to the United States, where by the way they have them in federal jails, violating their rights. The United States says they are excluded because they are excluded from living in the United States. In contrast, how curious that they do receive people of the same caliber when they hijack a boat.

[Rodriguez] From a high place in Havana City and through observation equipment, the very next day after the events in Havana City, a comrade of ours witnessed a U.S. vessel picking up someone or a group, it was too far to see clearly, at the limits of our international waters on Sunday morning, two days after the events. They do not learn, even after the United States has reported the existence of the Distant Shore plan that is to interrupt the influx of immigrants to the United States, but they still have not learned.

[Davalos] There is a tactical alliance between criminals... [rephrases] because people that are capable of doing something like the things we have seen—killing and hijacking of boats—those people are criminals, they are murderers and we have all seen how they are received. That tactical alliance is a boomerang against the United States. They are opening their doors to Havana's criminals. They should not complain afterwards. It is very interesting and curious, all those people that took part in the revolt who threw garbage cans and rocks are candidates to immigrate to the United States, to the (Yuma) as they call it.

[Rodriguez] Davalos, let's look at other aspects of the issue.

[Davalos] Very well, however, I am very interested in this alliance because all these people that were around the Malecon were seeing themselves walking towards the golden dream the (Yuma). I saw and lived it myself during the five months of the Mariel operation and I am seeing it again. I know that the United States will beat its chest saying Cuba sent criminals, but they are receiving them right now. They are opening the doors to them, they are allowing them to immigrate, after all of this there should be no protest from the United States. As our commander in chief said: They missed the opportunity to choose them. Here in the U.S. Interests Section they missed the opportunity to choose them and to say who could go and could not.

[Rodriguez] With the Mariel boat lift they accused the Cuban Government of cleaning out jails and streets, because only the so-called excluded, the criminals, were sent. They also accused us of sending people with mental disabilities. It was very hard in those circumstances to have a medical team analyzing each person psychologically and psychiatrically. I do not doubt that some people that went had mental disabilities, however, what I do believe is that criminals did go. I believe that the Mariel boat lift was like a big sewer through which we emptied a large segment of our common criminals.

[Davalos] The curious thing is that now, 14 years later, the ones that are helping to create another sanitizing service of the same type are the U.S. authorities. They are allied with the criminals who, I repeat once more, feel they are ideal candidates to go to the United States. I have information that determines that those people that gathered at the Malecon thought they could steal a little boat and go. When they saw that was impossible, they started to overturn garbage cans and throw rocks. Who were those people? The television showed us that most of those individuals had criminal records, fugitives, even drug addicts. It was stated clearly that they were typical of the 300 people arrested. The United States is opening its doors to those people. I am sure that one day they will regret this, but it will be too late. It will boomerang, it is beginning to boomerang right now.

[Rodriguez] Do you think that in this there is a lesson for the people of Cuba? We are extremely humanitarian, we are perhaps too understanding, too paternalistic because this Revolution in essence is humanistic. Sometimes we believe that the common criminal does not hurt us. We believe that they do not hurt us as much as a counterrevolutionary that is capable of planting a bomb. However, there is a thesis, which has now been confirmed, that the common criminal walks a fine line between the Revolution and the counterrevolution and that in the last instance joins the counterrevolution. This has been confirmed now. Do you agree?

[Davalos] No, I think that fine line does not exist. I believe that now they are combined, mixed together; the criminals and the counterrevolutionaries are so well mixed that now it is impossible to say that one does this and the other that. There is an agglomeration of individuals with the same interest: emigrate and destroy the Revolution. I think that there are no differences. The individual that steals does so from the workers; he is an exploiter. The person that steals the assets of another person, of another citizen, is committing a crime. This person is a true exploiter, he is an enemy to his own class.

[Rodriguez] No, no continue, I was not going to say anything.

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[Davalos] I was saying that there are no differences anymore. I believe that criminals now cannot be labeled as common criminals anymore because they coincide with the enemies of the Revolution.

[Rodriguez] I had the opportunity to be on the streets during the disturbances; I was on Galiano street. I was there during the very moment those vandalistic events were taking place. They have been properly defined as vandalism because they were carried out by vandals. I witnessed first hand the morale standards of these individuals. I noticed that they were not following any political patterns, however the consequences of their deeds are political. I was thinking that, even though they were at times shouting counterrevolutionary slogans, the inspiration behind those events was not political. I would say that they were having a good time destroying things, breaking things, and throwing rocks at windows. When you think about it, what is the goal of breaking the windows of the Deauville Hotel or the windows of a shop? They did not try to break into... [repeats] they did not try to break into many places because they were stopped by workers. For example, they broke some windows of the Deauville Hotel, since no one stopped them from reaching the hotel they broke windows.

[Davalos] They did not get past the hotel's lobby.

[Rodriguez] They did not get that far; they never reached the hotel's sidewalk. They were stopped by a group of workers headed by the hotel's administrator. I think that it is important to note who these individuals were and that they were not organized, as such. However, they did have a certain solidarity among them.

[Davalos] I believe that what stopped them from continuing was cowardice. They know when they see danger. They could not get in. On television we saw the fur shop that had customers and children inside, they did not get past the door, they did not get past the Deauville Hotel's door either. That is cowardice not lack of organization.

[Rodriguez] Davalos, now in the closing moments, I am giving you the opportunity to conclude broaching your ideas, those ideas that you had so well organized and I think that I have disrupted them somewhat.

[Davalos] No, we are broaching this matter here. I experienced the five months of the Mariel boat lift, day after day. I saw the people that left. I saw the way they were received. I saw the type of people that they were. There is a similarity, a coincidence, among those people. Afterwards the United States protested; they now have them confined in jail. Those people that riot in those jails are them same people. These people that feel, as some say, [rephrases] are agitated are encouraged by the United States. I know that in the long run these individuals that consider themselves candidates to emigrate who are criminals are going to be singled out by the United States as undesirables, as excludables. They will, once more, blame the Revolution for sending them. It has been the United States that has opened its doors. When a criminal, someone with a criminal record, a thief, sees that someone who has killed or sees that someone who throws a person overboard, [rephrases] he feels encouraged when he sees that kind of person is allowed into the United States.

[Rodriguez] I know that it has been said that we were in combat and some did not want to believe this. In those moments the combat was ideological. It was against certain hidden actions. It was not open combat. Now it has been proved that we are in open combat. I believe that the revolutionary forces, I do not know if you agree, should reinforce their vigilance even at the level of the neighborhood. At the neighborhood level [pauses] these individuals, everyone has a home in Havana, everyone lives in a neighborhood, and everyone is known. If the activity of these criminals is controlled on a neighborhood level, do you think that these incidents will not be repeated?

[Davalos] Yes, the thing is that everyone here knows who is who. We all know, the decent people, the revolutionary knows who in his neighborhood is capable of stealing, pushing an old person, or breaking into a house. They know this because they shy away from these people. I believe that is known perfectly well. I believe that is among the Revolution's arsenal. We are in combat and this means that we are to be alert against these individuals. Alert against those dummies that believe the U.S. radio stations that call white black and black white. I want everyone to know that [rephrases] some of these individuals believe, wholeheartedly, what these radio stations have to say.

[Rodriguez] Thank you to Fernando Davalos.

Interior Ministry Describes 5 Aug, Subsequent Events

FL1008142394 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 10 Aug 94

[Report "on recent riots in Havana" by Alemai; from the "First Thing" program]

[Text] As a result of the acts of vandalism, Police Sergeant Gabriel Lamoth Caballero was murdered by social scum spurred on and supported by Yankee imperialism. Likewise, 35 people were injured, including 10 members of the National Revolutionary Police [PNR]. The overall material loses were of no consequence, since the antisocial individuals only broke 18 display windows and stole display items from three of them.

The acts of vandalism were provoked by the hijacking of three ferries which transport people between Havana and the towns of Regla and Guanabacoa. The Interior Ministry [Minint] has reported that in the predawn hours of 5 August, approximately 300 or 400 social outcasts gathered near Paula Avenue in Habana Vieja Municipality. These people were dispersed by the PNR.

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At about 0600, a group of 21 people boarded the Dos Rios tugboat, which does not have a motor, in order to leave Cuba illegally. These people were removed from the tugboat right away and arrested shortly after, thanks to the joint efforts of port workers and policemen who managed to restore peace and order.

At 0700, approximately 100 people gathered on Paula Avenue. These groups of disenfranchised people, instigated by provocateurs, began to shout counterrevolutionary slogans. Thanks to the opportune intervention of policemen, this protest was dispersed without any arrests. These small groups dispersed from Paula Avenue, headed to the La Punta area in El Malecon, and continued meandering around all morning.

At 1300, about 700 people had gathered in La Punta.

After 1430, the riots began but not in the Malecon area per se, but rather on Galiano, Escobar, Neptuno, and San Lazaro Streets of Centro Habana Municipality, mainly near the Deauville Hotel, taking advantage of the fact that the bulk of the PNR forces were at the shore area. This is precisely were the clashes began. These were initially repelled by isolated policemen who happened to be in the area, and the Deauville Hotel workers who, following the breaking of several display windows on the facade of the building, took charge of safeguarding their workplace.

A policeman who rode by in his bicycle was attacked with stones and bricks and beaten with clubs. This policeman remains in serious condition due to a broken neck. The rioters also broke the rear windshield of a patrol car.

The investigation has revealed that stones and bottles were thrown from balconies of nearby buildings. Currently, the police are working at identifying and arresting the people involved in these acts.

Later on, similar acts of vandalism took place in the La Punta area. These were neutralized quickly and without having to lament any loss of life. It was possible to reestablish order thanks to the quick response of the PNR, port workers, and workers of the facilities attacked, as well as numerous other workers, such as Blas Roca Contingent workers.

On the night of 5 August, and in the predawn hours of 6 August, with the exception of very isolated cases, calm prevailed in the areas of Centro Habana and Habana Vieja where the antisocial individuals and lumpen encouraged by enemy propaganda had rioted.

The Minint report adds that it can be concluded that the people involved in this affront are common criminals, vandals, and antisocials whose goal was to emigrate to the United States encouraged by the U.S. policy which welcomes them with open arms.

As a result of a preliminary analysis of the facts, it has been concluded that the riots were instigated by the hijacking of the three ferries, on 26 July, and 3 and 4 August. We must add to this, the constant radio aggression to which Cuba is subjected from the United States.

The people arrested in these incidents have confessed that they gathered in the aforementioned areas spontaneously and with the only goal of emigrating to the United States. Authorities have affirmed that the Havana Bay ferry service will be reestablished shortly. A number of measures are being implemented in order to guarantee the safety and peace of mind of the passengers.

The Minint report also adds that significant numbers of the instigators of the riots have been held under preventive detention, will be arraigned, and will receive the full weight of the law in accordance with Cuban Penal Code.

Since Saturday, the situation remains under control and the necessary measures are being implemented to prevent further acts of vandalism. Finally, the Minint report adds that police continue to patrol the areas where the incidents took place and at times this gives rise to acts of vindictiveness by the most recalcitrant individuals who live in the area. These antisocials and common criminals are encouraged by the obvious U.S. policy of destabilization toward Cuba, which finds in these people an unrivaled petri dish.

Police Official on Arrests, Procedures After 5 Aug Events

FL1008143394 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 10 Aug 94

[Report by Estela Guerra; from the "First Thing" program]

[Text] Following the recent incidents in Havana involving antisocials and counterrevolutionaries, the enemy has not ceased in its smear campaign against Cuba and is implying there have been mass arrests.

Captain Luis Olivera Ferrer, chief of the Penal Prosecution Office of the municipal National Revolutionary Police [PNR] unit of Habana Vieja, had this to say:

[Begin recording] [Olivera] Following the events which you mentioned, and as a result of them, the PNR, with the support of the citizenry and militiamen primarily, has undertaken the task of arresting citizens directly or indirectly involved in the riots. Of course, we are also conducting a selective process of investigation within the established legal period and as a result of this, right now there are several citizens under arrest waiting for hearings. We have also taken a series of measures regarding other citizens whose level of participation and record makes arrest unnecessary. These measures range from official warnings and fines for disturbing the peace, to basic admonitions and preventive steps.

The process has been broad but very extensive and we have processed every citizen involved in correspondence to their involvement.

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[Guerra] Without violating the citizen's rights?

[Olivera] The Republic's Constitution gives the PNR certain authority and prerogatives, and these have been fulfilled as established. In order to do this, we have relied on the direct participation of provincial prosecutors who have guaranteed the fulfillment of socialist law. [end recording]

Palmero Praises Workers for Role in 5 Aug Events

FL1008153494 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 0900 GMT 10 Aug 94

[Text] Candido Palmero, member of the Politburo and first secretary of the Communist Party of Cuba in Havana [as heard], has affirmed that the commitment of our people demonstrated that the streets belong and will always belong to the revolutionaries who have earned them in over 35 years of arduous struggle. Palmero emphasized his trust in the response of Havana's people and workers against the group of bandits and provocateurs who played into the enemies' hands.

Palmero, who for 10 years headed the Blas Roca Calderio Contingent, praised the attitude of the contingent's workers in Havana, many of whom left their posts—some even barefoot and without shirts—carrying only their work tools to became the front line of battle against the antisocials.

Ferryboat Hijackers Confess, Explain Motives

PA1008194694 Havana PRENSA LATINA in Spanish 0407 GMT 10 Aug 94

[Text] Havana, 9 Aug (PL)—Hijackers of a Havana Bay ferryboat today admitted having taken part in Thursday's incident in which a noncommissioned police officer was killed while trying to prevent the hijacking.

Mayda Barbara Jordan told PRENSA LATINA that she had prior knowledge of the preparations to steal the "Baragua," which was recovered on 5 August when it ran out of fuel inside Cuban waters with about 195 passengers aboard. Between 15 and 20 of the passengers were responsible for the hijacking, which claimed the life of Gabriel Lamoth, a 19-year-old noncommissioned police officer.

Jordan, 28, a housewife, is under arrest and investigation. She had made contact with the hijacking's organizers and even offered to carry the weapon onboard but denied planning the hijacking, which involved several old people and children.

According to her explanations, she was interested in traveling to the United States, where she has brother who has no money, which is why she took part in the hijacking and was tasked with watching the compass.

She involved several of her relatives in the attack on the boat, including her two small children, ages five and 12. She said she opted for this since U.S. authorities grant no visas and instead welcome, with "much fanfare," those who arrive illegally.

A boat had left just the day before, and those hijackers arrived safely because they were picked up on the high seas by the U.S. Coast Guard, she noted in explaining the basis for her decision, the danger of which she now acknowledges in reflecting: "I did not think about it" at the time.

Mayda Barbara's father, Miguel Angel Jordan Pupo, reached the same conclusion and said that he went along as a "guest" because he was "lulled" by the success of the previous hijacking.

Jordan Pupo, 55, works as a mechanic and said that he lives well in Cuba and had no personal motives for hijacking the ferry. He said that after the hijacking, he examined the engine, and once they were on the high seas, he drew water from the radiator to give to the children.

He said that his daughter knew the organizers and that he had had to protect his grandchildren because as the launch was leaving the Havana anchorage he heard an armed man say "this launch has been hijacked." This was followed by a shot.

Replying to a question about his daughter's participation in organizing the hijacking, he said: "I don't know what to say."

Charles Valdes Suarez, 29, with a long police record and sentences for common crimes that have taken up nearly a third of his life, said that the main organizers are from the Mariano neighborhood, where he lives. He learned of the plan the same day through a neighbor who knew of his interest in leaving Cuba.

I went to the port and joined them (the hijackers), and they gave me a hammer to break the plastic pilothouse door, Valdes Suarez said. He is the part-time construction worker who gunned the boat's engine when the captain attempted a maneuver to prevent the theft.

He added that he also helped control the shouting passengers by using "foul language" and that he negotiated with the Border Guards for water and food, which were delivered, as well as fuel to continue the trip.

He said that the Border Guards' vessel kept a prudent distance and rendered medical assistance as soon as the hijackers surrendered.

The authorities had previously tried to talk to the hijackers to avoid danger to the hostages, but the hijackers refused, Interior Ministry sources said.

Mayda Barbara Jordan added that all passengers received medical attention once ashore. Because she was recently operated on, she is being treated by specialists.

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Alexander Gonzalez Lopez, from Luyano neighborhood, east of Havana, said that he was crossing the bay when the hijacking took him by surprise. He also decided to go to the pilothouse to check the compass brought onboard "by a girl" so as to "prevent a great disaster" from taking place.

According to Lopez Gonzalez, he was headed to Regla to repair a friend's car and heard when an armed passenger shouted: "This is a hijacking," followed by a shot near the bow.

Article Calls Immigration 'Huge Problem' for Clinton

PA1108002594 Havana PRENSA LATINA in Spanish 1901 GMT 10 Aug 94

[Unattributed article: "The United States Again Debates Immigration Issues"]

[Text] Washington, 10 Aug (PL)—If an exodus of Cubans similar to the one in 1980 takes place at this time, White House immigration policies will again become the uncomfortable center of debate in a country that no longer welcomes immigrants.

Havana's warnings to make Washington stop encouraging illegal departures and start issuing the number of visas agreed on by the two countries have forced President William Clinton to face a new dilemma. Clinton has said immigration is one of the most important and complex issues currently facing the United States.

Immigration is such a huge problem, the former Arkansas governor could not keep one of his campaign promises after he reached the White House, and just like his predecessor and one-time opponent George Bush he authorized the forced repatriation of thousands of Haitians who were fleeing their country.

According to an America's Watch report, U.S. authorities returned some 36,000 Haitians to their country within a two-year period after a military coup d'etat in Haiti (September 1991) toppled President Jean-Bertrand Aristide.

However, the United States is welcoming with open arms those Cubans who leave the island illegally by granting them immediate political asylum and residence one year and a day after they arrive, as stipulated in the so-called 1966 Cuban Adjustment Law.

Experts in Havana-Washington relations agree the Clinton administration is not ready to confront an exodus similar to that of 1980, when within five months 125,000 people left Cuba on boats as part of an operation that triggered problems for former President Jimmy Carter.

The incidents that took place in downtown Havana on 5 August, along with the armed hijacking of three boats within just nine days, angered the Cuban people.

President Fidel Castro warned that should Washington fail to adopt efficient and swift measures to prevent illegal departures, Cuba would have to eliminate the obstacles to prevent the departure of any boat wanting to sail to the United States.

We will not guard the U.S. coasts, said the chief of state, who appeared at the scene of the events that left 35 people injured and caused light property damage.

The White House, aware that it would be unable to resist such an onslaught that could cost Clinton reelection, revived a secret plan prepared in 1980 to prevent a mass arrival of Cubans along Florida's coasts.

Cuba blamed the United States for the boat hijackings (during one of the hijackings, a noncommissioned police officer was killed), because it is not granting visas to Cubans who want to immigrate and because it is welcoming as heroes those who risk their lives on board flimsy boats.

In 1984, Washington and Havana signed immigration agreements stipulating the granting of up to 20,000 visas annually to those Cubans who want to live there and another 3,000 visas for people accused of committing counterrevolutionary crimes.

However, the United States has failed to comply with these agreements. The media have reported that only 6 percent of the visas promised have been granted since the agreements went into effect in 1987.

The Cuban TRABAJADORES weekly recently published an article, based on reports by official sources, indicating that more than 76 percent of those Cubans who requested visas to visit or live in the United States failed in their attempts to do so.

Specialists on the issue believe that should the United States accept all of those who want to leave the island as part of an exodus, Clinton would be placed in a bad position, because 36 percent of the U.S. population currently believes that deporting illegal aliens is "extremely important."

U.S. citizens, who previously welcomed with open arms all foreigners, are now asking the government to modify federal laws to reduce the number of people who come into U.S. territory illegally, estimated at 300,000 foreigners a year.

Among the reasons behind this position is the fear that immigrants take away jobs from Americans because they are willing to work cheaply, and that they will contribute to increasing crime and violence—something of which this country already has enough.

In short, an exodus of Cubans would make Clinton face the dilemma of continuing to welcome Cubans and repatriating Haitians or impeding the entry of the former, as it normally does with other Latin Americans who try to cross the U.S. border.

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Diplomat: U.S. To Blame If Exodus Occurs

PA1108024694 Havana Radio Havana Cuba in Spanish 0100 GMT 11 Aug 94

[From the "Evening Information Review" newscast]

[Text] Alfonso Fraga Perez, the chief officer of the Cuban Interests Section, has said in Washington that the U.S. Government will be the only one to blame if another exodus of Cuban citizens to the United States occurs, such as the one that took place from the port of Mariel in 1980. During a press conference, Fraga said the U.S. blockade and pressures against Cuba, along with immigration restrictions and U.S. encouragement of people to rise up against the government, have prompted the current situation. It is Washington, he stressed, which must find a solution.

The Cuban official stressed that Washington's policy of granting political asylum to those who hijack boats or airplanes to immigrate to the United States is creating a kind of Wild West, because those who carry out hijackings are not prosecuted. To this effect, the French news agency AFP reports the U.S. justice system has never prosecuted any Cuban who has come from the island by way of hijacking.

During his news conference, the Cuban representative said this is all part of a plan drafted by the United States and ultra-right-wing Cuban exile organizations against the Cuban Revolution. They are interested in seeing domestic conflict and bloodshed to justify a U.S. military intervention. He pointed out that the solution to the current situation also requires Washington to lift the embargo against the island, repeal the law that guarantees immediate asylum for those who enter the United States illegally, and put an end to the radio propaganda broadcasts directed at Cuba—broadcasts that total more than 1,100 hours per week.

Clinton Urged To Heed WASHINGTON POST, Rethink Strategy

PA1108034094 Havana Radio Havana Cuba in Spanish 0000 GMT 11 Aug 94

[Commentary by Roberto Morejon from the "Evening Information Review" newscast]

[Text] As has been noted, one of the objectives of the U.S. blockade against Cuba is to starve 11 million people into submission. Before that happens, however, according to the estimate of staunchest anti-Cubans at the White House, the harassment could yield other dividends, including the current domestic discontent.

Nobody can deny that shortages in Cuba, principally shortages of food, are of primary concern to Cubans and that these shortages even anger a segment of the population. Nevertheless, these material limitations are undeniably tied to the tightening of the U.S. economic blockade through the so-called Torricelli Law.

With the disappearance of the former socialist bloc, from which vital supplies were once shipped to Cuba, the effects of the U.S. economic blockade became more enveloping. Therefore, external factors have generated a very complex situation affecting 11 million Cubans. This economic harassment is key in attempts to provoke a dissatisfaction that results in social disturbances. This is the initial step leading to a crisis which, according to Washington's view, may even facilitate direct intervention.

Even prominent U.S. media have attributed the increased suffering of Cubans to what they call the embargo. Therefore, they recommend the embargo be eased. These remarks were made by THE WASHINGTON POST, which also established a relationship between the effects of the economic siege and the increase in attempts by groups of Cubans to illegally leave the island for the United States. These actions, which have repeated themselves in the past few days, originally resulted from Washington's capricious immigration policy, restricting the trips of Cubans through legal means, while welcoming those who hijack boats, take hostages, and murder policemen.

But like THE WASHINTON POST has said, a gradual reduction of the economic blockade will result in a reduction of the flow of illegal immigrants to the United States. The call made by the U.S. newspaper, urging President William Clinton to rethink his strategy toward Cuba and the connection between the blockade and the current material limitations on the island, represents a confirmation of the claims made by the Cuban Government.

It is time for the current U.S. Administration to turn its irrational anti-Cuban policy 180 degrees. President Clinton, who, like every President, is very heedful of the domestic press, should pay close attention to THE WASHINGTON POST's suggestion.

Anti-Imperialist Tribunal Decries U.S. 'Psychological War'

PA1108015794 Havana Radio Havana Cuba in Spanish 0000 GMT 11 Aug 94

[From the "Evening Information Review" newscast]

[Text] The Anti-Imperialist Tribunal of Our America [TANA] reports that the recent vandalism that took place in Havana is part of a hostile, obsolete, and ill-advised policy the United States has been conducting against Cuba for more than 30 years.

In a communique issued in Havana, TANA decries the psychological war being waged against the island and the systematic campaign in which radio transmissions from U.S. territory into Cuba are employed to destabilize the revolution and to promote armed intervention in Cuba.

The communique also rejects the U.S. Government's double standard of refusing to grant visas to thousands of Cuban who request them legally, while encouraging

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and inciting illegal departures from the island and welcoming as heroes those individuals who commit sabotage and crimes of terrorism.

We cannot but support Cuba's position of refusing to guard U.S. coasts should the U.S. authorities fail to adopt efficient and swift measures to prevent these condemnable events from continuing, TANA says.

Article Views 'New Escalation' in 'Conspiracy'

PA1008175794 Havana PRENSA LATINA in Spanish 0924 GMT 10 Aug 94

["Exclusive" article by Jose Dos Santos, vice president of the Union of Cuban Journalists: "New Escalation in a Historical Confrontation"]

[Text] Havana—The conspiracy against the Cuban revolution takes on new and dramatic nuances with the escalation provoked by criminals and dissatisfied people, who are encouraged by the U.S. Government's policy on Cuba and probably even organized from the United States.

The circumstances might seem timely to those determined to destroy the Cuban process, which experiences a continual economic crisis that neither financial and organizational measures nor growing ties with foreign partners have succeeded in alleviating significantly.

National efforts have not yet found an adequate response in production yields. Problems are being called bluntly by their proper names and studied in-depth these days, in particular to increase food production, a sensitive link in the chain of the country's present difficulties.

It is within the context of appealing to the greater combativeness and revolutionary awareness of the majority of the population—key resources in the 35 years of the present social experience—that illegal actions, such as commandeering of boats and Vandalic actions in the capital, have been taking place.

One of the present crisis' many facets is the need to correct the excessive amount of circulating currency through collection measures, such as raising the prices of nonessential products and the rates of some services, as well as eliminating certain other free services.

The establishment of a tax law—nonexistent for more than a quarter century—also has a subjective effect on a society that must adapt to new times and demands, even knowing that these measures by themselves will not bring about the necessary economic recovery.

Those who plot for destabilization in Cuba, encouraging dissatisfaction to create a social outbreak, rely on the natural chafing that this difficult situation produces in a sector of the population. One such parody has backfired again into an overwhelming defeat because the streets remained in the hands of the revolutionary population.

In addition, the early August incidents in Havana show a curious combination of vandalism and counterrevolution. Shouting slogans and throwing rocks at stores and the defenseless population, the perpetrators also looted stores, one of their obvious objectives.

These actions do not appear to be fortuitous or spontaneously caused by mobs. Although the matter is not discussed in public, many people believe there may be hidden instigators and plotters, who use criminals to try and disrupt order.

Plan Against the Revolution

The recent incidents and the predictable subsequent provocations confirm the existence of an updated general plan against the Cuban revolution, a plan adapted to the complex internal circumstances but which again turns its back on Cuba's history, in which such plans have always been thwarted.

President Fidel Castro himself reported this on television on 5 August and General Ulises Rosales del Toro, first substitute for the Armed Forces minister, confirmed it during the funeral of a young noncommissioned officer who had been killed during the seizure of a passenger boat.

In addition, pressures on businessmen who want to invest in Cuba have increased in an attempt to abort the country's economic effort.

Trying to intimidate those who visit or invest in the country could have been included in the objectives of the 5 August Vandalic actions, which were particularly serious in an area much visited by tourists, the Havana waterfront.

Our attention is arrested by the intensification of the propaganda campaign against Cuba as the result of the accident that left three dozen dead during the seizure of an old boat at the port of Havana. Most of the 1,140 weekly hours of radio broadcasting —through 17 frequencies—against the Cuban social process were devoted to distorting, expanding, and manipulating the incident.

Washington even spoke of taking the incident to the United Nations. As Castro pointed out, this responds more to the intention "to intervene in other countries through international organizations" than to a new slander campaign.

Haiti's proximity to Cuba makes more than suspicious and dangerous the parallels they try to draw between the two countries in preparation for the United States and its allies attempting to apply similar formulas on the two countries.

The Cuban leader has warned about the clear intention of the United States and its propaganda, which is to stimulate and urge people to violate the law.

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Three boat seizures occurred from 26 July to 4 August, where at least one young policeman died; firearms, knives, and grenades were used; and dozens of people, including women, children, and old people, were held hostage by individuals attempting to go where they are received with honors as heroes.

The difference in the treatment accorded Mexican, Chinese, Dominican, and Haitian immigrants reveals the wicked political intent with which illegal Cuban immigration is used, an immigration in fact provoked by the U.S. Government and protected by its laws.

Faced with life or death challenges such as increasing production, stopping the deterioration of the standard of living, and continuing to provide services and basic products within everyone's reach, Cuba seems determined to resolve the artificial pressure that the United States has created with its refusal to accept legal immigrants and instead receive illegal ones.

Authorities of that country have been publicly challenged to adopt measures to stop these criminal actions being made in attempts to reach the U.S. coast. It has been said clearly and firmly that otherwise Cuba could apply emigration measures, such as preventing the sailing of boats with people desiring to travel there, even those who might have arrived for this purpose.

Furthermore, Havana confirmed its willingness to conduct serious and sincere negotiations with its neighbor, even more so now that Cuba has reiterated its open-door policy toward all those who desire to emigrate legally.

For this reason, the ball is now in the other guy's court, so to speak. The evolution of the new stage in the disagreement between the two countries will depend on how Washington plays. Meanwhile, the ghost of a new boat lift, such as the Mariel boat lift in 1980, has begun to scare the United States, where plans for dealing with but not eliminating it are being dusted off.

Use of Guantanamo for Haitian Refugees Protested

FL1108023094 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 2300 GMT 10 Aug 94

[Cuban Ministry of Foreign Relations' note on use of U.S. Gauntanamo Bay Naval Base for Haitian refugees; from the "Exclusive" program]

[Text] The Government of the Republic of Cuba energetically protests the illegal use of the Guantanamo Bay Naval Base, which is forcefully occupied by the United States, as a concentration camp for Haitian refugees. These events are not only in violation of the arbitrary, unfair, and outdated accord, which was imposed on Cuba through a military occupation at the turn of the century and which cannot be maintained against the sovereign will of our people, but are inconceivable without Cuba's prior authorization and consent. This arbitrary and infringing use of a portion of Cuban territory to concentrate and process people who, for different reasons, want to reach the United States, has been firmly and decisively protested by the Cuban government in the past.

The Cuban government has learned that United States is currently detaining approximately 16,000 Haitians in inhumane and overcrowded conditions. By doing this the United States is not only infringing the refugee's human rights, but it is also endangering health conditions, as well as the tranquility and stability, for Cuban citizens who live near the U.S. military enclave.

Signed: Ministry of Foreign Relations.

GRANMA: Haitian Invasion Will Create Tension

PA1008175094 Havana PRENSA LATINA in Spanish 1006 GMT 10 Aug 94

[Text] Havana, 10 Aug (PL)—An intervention in Haiti, as approved by the UN Security Council, would create a dangerous source of tension in the Caribbean, the newspaper GRANMA warned today.

The official mouthpiece of the ruling Communist Party added that the eventual military deployment "would take place in a theater of operations into which Cuba has been plunged because of the opprobrious existence of the (U.S.) naval base at Guantanamo and because of the country's own geographic position."

It said the invasion will come sooner or later because Haitian democracy is not what must be reestablished.

The problem, it added, is to bring order to Haiti so the strategic interests of its oligarchy and its armed wing, which are also Washington's own interests, will no longer be harmed.

GRANMA indicated that this intervention seeks no other objective than to undermine the return of Jean-Bertrand Aristide and prevent the implementation of his government program because, according to the planned timetable, the president will only have one year to govern.

The Haitian military structures would also be maintained and would be left in the hands of the interventionists who would "modernize them" under Washington's influence, the newspaper said.

It stressed that "above all, the intervention would seek to guarantee that nothing serious would happen to the coupist officers, who have always been allies of the Pentagon and the CIA."

GRANMA indicated that Security Council Resolution 940 sets an extremely serious precedent because it justifies a military intervention in a country with the argument of reestablishing democracy.

Although the resolution states that it is an unique case and that it does not establish precedents, GRANMA indicated that in terms of international law, it does in fact set a precedent.

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It said that after diverse measures that include boycotts and economic pressures against the Haitian people, the United States "resorts to a card that it has been desperate to play and that it knows will give it victory...that will definitely be also against Aristide...and the Haitian people."

Robaina on Economic Situation, Paraguay Ties

PY1108035594 Asuncion Cerro Cora Sistema Nacional de Television Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 10 Aug 94

["Exclusive" interview with Foreign Minister Roberto Robaina by Sistema Nacional de Television Network reporters in Santa Fe de Bogota, Colombia; date not given—recorded]

[Text] In an exclusive interview with our correspondents, Cuban Foreign Minister Roberto Robaina said that the establishment of a Cuban diplomatic representation in Paraguay depends on the Paraguayan Government.

[Reporter] You have been to our country. The dire poverty prevalent in Paraguay's countryside, and especially among peasants, is the consequence of more than 40 years of a dictatorial regime. Now, Cuba also has economic problems. Do you solely blame the embargo on trade with Cuba for this situation, or is the government also responsible for it?

[Robaina] Well, I believe that a complex and difficult situation like the one confronting my country does not stem from only one cause. I can nonetheless assure you that the most important cause is the blockade we are enduring. Still, it is not the only one. To this should be added a second blockade that supervened, namely, privileged relations with a Socialist world that existed for a long time and are not present now, and also something that has to do with our inefficiency, our irresponsibilities, and all our shortcomings. I believe that it is a combination of many things, but among this combination of things, nothing is undoubtedly more terrible to my country than the economic blockade.

[Reporter] How do relations between Cuba and Paraguay stand?

[Robaina] I believe that they are.... [pauses] I would rather speak about relations between the Cuban people and the Paraguayan people. I think that there is a level of communication with the Paraguayan Government that benefits both countries and I believe that these relations should embark upon a road that will lead us to know each other better.

[Reporter] Would it be possible to establish a Cuban Embassy in Paraguay?

[Robaina] I believe in what is possible provided that there is margin for effort. Anyway, the possibility of establishing an embassy or not does not depend on Cuba but rather on Paraguay.

[Reporter] Thank you.

Prosecutor Describes Confiscation of Profiteer's Goods

FL1008191694 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 9 Aug 94

[Report by Alemai from the "First Thing" program—passages within quotation marks are recorded]

[Text] A boundless drive to possess great riches degenerates and corrupts men, making them seek to corrupt, little by little, everything that surrounds them. Eagerness to possess and a sick need to show off what they have acquired, mostly illegally, dominates them.

A man obsessed by material interests knowingly becomes a moneybag and is commonly described as a social cancer. Lawyer Enrique Valdez Machin, from Havana's provincial prosecutor's office, has details on a moneybags with a capital M who lives in El Cerro municipality, Havana, and who is being charged under Decree-Law 149.

[Valdez] "There were even those who thought that house in El Canal neighborhood in Cerro Municipality housed a minizoo. They were not far from the truth, except that is was not intended to entertain curious visitors, but to illegally profit its owner. Rather frequently trucks would unload animals and feed; the business was going full speed ahead, until that morning the Havana Municipal Prosecutor showed up."

Moneybags profit disregarding the people's needs; they feed on their selfishness and awaken material greed among their friends and relatives. Because they believe themselves to be wealthy businessmen, they set black market prices, and trade in the people's material and at time, spiritual needs. Their only goal is to increase their own fortunes and live a flamboyant and extravagant life style far above those who work and sacrifice honorably.

[Valdez] "One peacock, one guinea fowl, 18 ducks, 23 chickens, 5 goats, 3 sheep, and 23 turtles were found in the backyard. In addition, one VCR, porcelain figurines, one color television, one wall clock, 80,000 pesos, and two gold chains with religious medals were found in the house.

"We know that this moneybags, although he is of retirement age, does not receive any retirement pay because he had not worked the time required for it. We have to ask: Where did he get the money for those things, considering that the value of the articles found exceeds 182,000 pesos? All this, of course, without including money spent in daily expenses, clothing, shoes, and other expenses."

So far, recovering the moneybags' ill-gotten goods and income, as well as combating their activities, have been effective in helping to restore national finances. Additionally, if confiscation measures were to be applied to the goods seized, they would be put to good use for the benefit of all workers.

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[Valdez] "The moneybags stated that all his life he worked selling animals, principally for religious rituals, and that the current value of these animals has increased considerably. However, what he did not say, and it is logical is that what he has really done all life long, as demonstrated by the exorbitant prices he charged for each animal, was to exploit the people's material and spiritual needs and profit at the expense of the people's beliefs, in order to obtain the high profits he invested in his own well being. Therefore, since he could not prove the legality of his earnings, the acting prosecutor asked the Attorney General of the Republic that the moneybag's goods be confiscated."

Dominican Republic

President, Opposition Agree on Date for Elections

PA1008232394 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2221 GMT 10 Aug 94

[Text] Santo Domingo, 10 Aug (EFE)—Dominican President Joaquin Balaguer and Jose Francisco Pena Gomez, former Social Democrat presidential candidate, today agreed to hold new presidential elections to end the institutional crisis affecting the country since the 16 May elections. The new elections will be held on 16 November 1995, and the inauguration will be on 25 February 1996.

The new elections, which are supported by the ruling Social Christian Reformist Party (PRSC) and the opposition Dominican Revolutionary Party (PRD) and Dominican Liberation Party (PLD), will be held after the Constitution is amended.

President Balaguer and Pena Gomez made the announcement at a news conference held at the National Palace Ambassadors Room. The two leaders reached the agreement last night at the end of a round of talks held at the Dominican Republic Library under the auspices of the OAS and the Dominican Catholic Church.

Election Accord Detailed

PA1108004894 Paris AFP in Spanish 2351 GMT 10 Aug 94

[Text] Santo Domingo, 10 Aug (AFP)—The agreement to hold new presidential elections in the Dominican Republic on 16 November 1995—an agreement announced by President Joaquin Balaguer and Social Democratic leader Jose Francisco Pena Gomez on 10 August—does not call for new elections for legislators or mayors.

Here are some details of the agreement reached by Balaguer and Pena Gomez, announced at the Government Palace in Santo Domingo:

- Holding new elections for president and vice president of the Republic on 16 November 1995. The new president-elect will be sworn in on 27 February 1996—the Dominican Republic's National Day.
- Senators, mayors, and councilmen elected in the 16 May elections will remain in their posts for a four-year term.
- Before Thursday, 16 August, the Senate and Chamber of Deputies must debate and approve the necessary amendments to validate the agreements in accordance with the Constitution.
- Presidential reelection will be forbidden.
- A new Central Electoral Board (JCE) will be created.
- A new National Judiciary Council will be created.

It also was learned that Pena Gomez asked Balaguer not to remove high-ranking Armed Forces officers who have relatives in the opposition.

The agreement, in which the leftist Dominican Liberation Party (PLD) also participated, will be signed within the next few hours.

Opposition Group Rejects Accord

PA1108030394 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0157 GMT 11 Aug 94

[Text] Santo Domingo, 10 Aug (EFE)—The "Opposition Rainbow" [Arcoiris Opositor], comprising popular organizations and leftist parties, has rejected the agreement between President Joaquin Balaguer and the opposition to hold new presidential elections in the Dominican Republic. The organization is maintaining its call for a general strike for 15-17 August.

The leading promoter of the strike had been the Dominican Revolutionary Party (PRD), but its top leader, Jose Francisco Pena Gomez, rescinded the strike call following the agreement with Balaguer. The agreement calls for holding new elections on 16 November 1995.

Opposition Rainbow spokeswoman Mercedes Alfonseca Caamano said at a news conference: "Agreements of this type represent a bogus reward and a license for the chief (Balaguer) to continue ruling the country after 16 August (when he is scheduled to be sworn in)."

Opposition Rainbow, which supported the general strike call made by the PRD to protest the "colossal fraud" in the May elections, announced it never supported the negotiations and, in turn, is not bound to respect to results of the dialogue. The organization said the agreement and the negotiations in which the Dominican Liberation Party and the Social Christian Reformist Party (PRSC) took part "will be upholding the fraudulent results during the 18 months Balaguer remains in power."

Narciso Isa Conde, secretary of the Dominican Communist Party, said: "We do not support agreements signed behind people's backs, and we do not support any formula that implies Balaguer should stay in power after 16 August."

He added: "The proof of the fraud shows that the only proper and fair thing would be the complete invalidation

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of the elections and a transition toward a new institutionality within the framework of a provisional government—a government without Balaguer and without the perpetrators of the fraud."

The agreement between the opposition and Balaguer came after the post-electoral crisis and after the Central Electoral Board ruled in favor of Balaguer's lead of some 22,000 votes.

Haiti

Courts Begin Trial of Aristide for 'High Treason'

FL1008182694 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1045 GMT 10 Aug 94

[Text] On Monday 8 August the Haitian judicial system began proceedings to try President-in-exile Jean-Bertrand Aristide for the crime of high treason. The government of Judge Emile Jonassaint accuses the president-in-exile of having asked for a military intervention in Haiti. The file was sent forth on Monday 8 August.

The proceedings aimed at ending up in the trial of President-in-exile Jean-Bertrand Aristide for the crime of high treason have begun. Preliminary undertakings in the matter have just begun in the court of Port-au-Prince. The public prosecutor's department submitted the file of Jean-Bertrand Aristide, as well as that of his ambassador to the United Nations, Fritz Longchamps, to the examining office for further action. The senior justice of the court, Enock Voltaire who reported the news to Radio Metropole, also stated that the file is extremely complex and that the proceedings will be relatively long.

[Begin recording] [Voltaire] We received the file from the prosecutor's department yesterday. We distributed it. Now the file is in the hands of the most senior examining judge of this court, Judge Fritz [name indistinct]. He will be in charge of this case.

[Reporter Jean] What about the technical side of this case? Who will be tried, Jean-Bertrand Aristide, former head of state, or Jean-Bertrand Aristide, president?

[Voltaire] This falls on the examining judge to know exactly what he must do. We cannot say much about it.

[Jean] Is it not the case of an individual for the Haitian courts?

[Voltaire] I will not say it is the case of an individual since the case is before the examining office. We must wait to see what is going to happen. Right now, we cannot judge yet if this case will be an individual one or not. It is too early to say.

[Jean] If the examining judge deems that this case is admissible, what would happen then? Would the case continue?

[Voltaire] As I said, the general procedure is that, once the procesutor's department submits the file to the examining judge who examines the case, he communicates to the prosecutor for the [word indistinct] then he gives his order.

[Jean] If there is an order to give, it will obviously be done in his absence.

[Voltaire] As I said, we cannot say anything right now since an examining judge is in charge of this case. [end recording]

MDN Asks Parliament To Create Conditions for Trial

FL1008214694 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1600 GMT 10 Aug 94

[Text] Hubert de Ronceray's Mobilization for National Development [MDN] asked deputies to create the necessary conditions for the trial against President Jean-Bertrand Aristide and Ambassador Fritz Longchamp. In declaring the parliament the Mecca of national resistance, the MDN stated that several deputies have made significant efforts, yet these were clearly not enough. The MDN stated that deputies need to take steps that will allow the Ministry of Justice to implement its 4 August communique regarding a public trial against Aristide and Longchamp, who are both guilty of high treason.

Pierre Urges Reinstating Former Military

FL1008230094 Port-au-Prince Signal FM Radio in French 1030 GMT 10 Aug 94

[Text] In order to present a stronger resistance against the enemy, Franck Pierre's Capois La Mort called for the reinstatement of dismissed and retired militaries into the Haitian Armed Forces in face of the repeated threats of a U.S. strike against Haiti. Franck Pierre, leader of the organization, is happy with the decision of some Haitians who have volunteered to defend the motherland. Let us listen to his explanations for Signal FM:

[Begin Pierre recording in Creole] We, the members of Capois La Mort, encourage all former militaries, regardless of whether they were dismissed or retired, to return to their barracks for training, and to take up their weapons in defense of their homeland from a military intervention. We also call on all important people with weapons, who used to use these weapons to go hunting and kill guinea-fowls and pigeons, to join us. We could say that we are watching out for our cow. If your cow is injured, you must obtain medicine to treat the wounds. [end recording]

Deputies Train 'To Thwart the Yankees'

FL1008175994 Port-au-Prince Signal FM Radio in French 1030 GMT 10 Aug 94

[Excerpts] Alliance for Parliamentary Cohesion [ACP] deputies are getting ready to face those who would

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intervene. About 25 of them are undergoing arms training from the Haitian Armed Forces in order to resist the occupiers. They have already made much progress and hope to be able to defend themselves when the landing occurs. Let us listen to explanations in a report by Daly Valet:

[Begin recording, in Creole] [Valet] The misfortune that hangs over Haiti today is that the United States continues its threats of military intervention in Haiti. But it seems that none of the protagonists wants to negotiate to spare the country the humiliation and all the suffering and sorrow that intervention can entail. After General Cedras stated that he is ready to fight against the Americans, today many deputies are training with weapons in their hands in order to thwart the Yankees. These deputies, who number about 20, are members of the ACP. Deputy Pierre Francois Vital told us that they have reached a very advanced stage in their training with the military. The deputies are learning how to assemble and disassemble weapons and to roll about.

[Vital] [passage omitted] We have already reached the stage of assembling and disassembling weapons. We are now training in the various drills. [passage omitted] We will also try to spend our own money in the event that the army cannot offer us helmets and equipment. We will spend our own money so we can buy equipment.

[Valet] Many of the deputies who have decided to fight against the Americans have age problems. Deputy Gabriel Sanon is about 60 years old. So, the training will be a bit hard for him. But he says he is nevertheless ready to learn how to handle weapons. For his part, Deputy Neland Jean-Louis, about 50 years old, says he is ready to fight because too many stalling maneuvers have been made in the country for three years. [passage omitted]

We remind you that the Chamber of Deputies last week approved a resolution declaring the parliament to be the mecca of national resistance. Chamber of Deputies President Frantz Robert Monde has always said that he would be in the first ranks to defend the territory of Dessalines [general who proclaimed Haiti's national independence on 1 January 1804 after his army defeated French troops]. Following this same logic of resistance, the authorities of the chamber have had the employees of the security service undergo training with the military.

Military Uniforms Distributed to Deputies

FL1008232294 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1900 GMT 10 Aug 94

[Text] Today, military uniforms were distributed at the legislative palace as part of the preparations to thwart a U.S. invasion. The deputies took off their outfits to put on the military's olive green uniform: pants, shirt, and cap. Strangely enough, the uniforms are similar to those worn by the guerrillas.

Threatened Radio Station Suspends Newscasts

FL1008110294 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1600 GMT 9 Aug 94

[Excerpts] The management of Radio Arc-en-Ciel has decided to suspend its newscasts following threats uttered against some journalists of the station. According to Yolette Mingual, the editor in charge, the latest threats go back to Friday 5 August. Three civilians, heavily armed, came to the station premises and asked insistently to meet with the journalists. Since that date Radio Arc-en-Ciel has decided to suspend its newscasts. [passage omitted]

Radio Arc-en-Ciel, 103.9 FM, continues to broadcast its entertainment programs and newscasts of the Voice of America. [passage omitted]

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Indian Group Seizes Government Palace in Tijuana

PA1108032094 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0214 GMT 11 Aug 94

[Text] Mexico City, 10 Aug (EFE)—About 200 Indians today took over government installations in the border town of Tijuana to demand that Mexican authorities comply with agreements that have been signed on economic and social assistance.

The Indians are members of the Mixtec-Zapotec Binational Front. The front comprises Indian groups of southern Mexico, which is one of the poorest regions of the country.

Reporters in Tijuana, the most important city along the U.S.-Mexican border, told EFE the Indians are vowing not to leave the Government Palace until a commission comprising federal representatives from Baja California and Oaxaca meet with them to discuss the fulfillment of the assistance agreements.

The Indians are protesting noncompliance with an agreement they signed with officials in Oaxaca and Baja California to provide aid to day laborers, most of whom are members of the Mixtec and Zapotec ethnic groups working in the San Quintin Valley.

On Monday, Indian day laborers began a march from the San Quintin Valley, in Ensenada Municipality, to Tijuana, where they arrived yesterday and established themselves outside the Government Palace to pressure authorities.

Sources say front leader Arturo Pimentel Salas led the takeover of the palace, where there was a scuffle with guards. Apparently, Cecilia Barones de Castellanos, government secretary in Baja California State, also participated in the shoving and pushing match.

Deputies of the National Action Party (PAN), which governs Baja California, accused the demonstrators of being manipulated by the Party of the Democratic Revolution (PRD), the largest leftist opposition group, and of trying to organize an armed struggle in that area of Baja California.

State Assistant Prosecutor Antonio Vasquez Rivera said contacts are being maintained with demonstrators to prevent violence.

The Indians are demanding that promises of wage increases be met, that they be incorporated into the security system, that they be given housing assistance, and that their human rights be respected.

Meanwhile, about 300 peasants from the Mezquital Valley in the central state of Hidalgo, one of the poorest regions in the country, clashed with police at the Government Palace in the city of Pachuca, the state capital. The club-wielding peasants, angered by a police attempt to remove them from a street they blocked to pressure the government, clashed with security forces, leaving six people injured on each side.

Peasants from Ixmiquilpan Municipality in the same state arrived in Pachuca to meet with the governor to request aid, urban services, and the resolution of landownership problems.

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Guatemala

URNG Communique Claims Ownership of Arms Arsenal

PA1008201394 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0405 GMT 9 Aug 94

[Text] Mexico City, 9 Aug (EFE)—A Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unity (URNG) communique admitted today that the arms cache found on Monday is theirs and rejected speculation about its destination.

On Monday, the Guatemalan Army High Command informed the media about an arsenal owned by the country's guerrilla groups, although there was also a hypothesis that the weapons could be destined for the Mexican Zapatist National Liberation Army.

The URNG communique states that the Guatemalan Government subjected the detained people to torture and physical and moral pressures to force them to supply information, as well as to force them to "sign a nonexistent and false amnesty and force them to appear eight days after, issuing declarations" in which they renounce the armed struggle.

The armaments, the Guatemalan guerrilla affirms, "does indeed belong to a URNG war materiel depot for the exclusive use of our organization and its military units."

The URNG says that three of those arrested were captured on 31 July and that the fourth person was arrested on 4 August outside the Guatemalan capital. No one surrendered voluntarily.

The URNG reiterated its right to maintain "its military units and the necessary war reserves until a negotiation with political, economic, and social content is agreed upon and concluded, and that it be balanced and fair," adding that all their military troops "are in high combat readiness."

The arsenal was comprised of, among other weapons, 696 AK-47 automatic rifles, 23 M-79 grenade launchers, 1,400 grenades, 11 RPG-7 rocket launchers with 300 rockets, and approximately 300 hand grenades.

The communique warns that their military forces are alert to any maneuver that the Guatemalan Army may try and said that they can completely repulse any offensive.

The URNG demands compliance with the General Agreement on Human Rights and Immediate International Verification and asks that the Guatemalan ombudsman for human rights "urgently take charge and take the four prisoners into his custody and under his protection," because the UN International Verification Commission has not yet been created.

The URNG described this action as a publicity stunt to distract Guatemalan public opinion from noncompliance with the General Agreement on Human Rights and Immediate International Verification.

Honduras

Costa Rica, Panama To Suspend Supply of Electricity

PA1008231394 Tegucigalpa LA TRIBUNA in Spanish 10 Aug 94 p 12

[Text] Costa Rica and Panama have decided to stop selling energy to Honduras beginning next week because of the low levels in the hydroelectrical dam reservoirs used to supply energy to other countries. Costa Rica and Panama currently supply the country with a total of 22 megawatts of electricity.

Jeronimo Sandoval, manager of the National Enterprise for Electric Power (ENEE), is negotiating with the private sector on plans to have private firms fill the energy gap that will arise. According to reports, the business sector, which has the capacity to generate all of its energy needs, will be in charge of meeting its demand.

The energy the country buys from Costa Rica and Panama will only be available this week, which is why a solution is being sought; otherwise, an extension of the rationing schedules cannot be ruled out.

Panama

Endara Interviewed on Cuba, Copyright Law

PA1008224394 Panama City TVN Television Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 8 Aug 94

[Telephone interview with President Guillermo Endara by Luz Maria Noli in Panama City; from the "TV Breakfast" newscast—live]

[Text] [Noli] Good morning, Mr. President.

[Endara] Good morning, Luz Maria. Thank you for calling me and for opening your television channel's doors to me.

[Noli] Thank you, Mr. President. We want to talk to you about Panama's reentry to the Rio Group this weekend. What are your comments after your long letter to the Latin American presidents requesting that Panama be readmitted to this political group?

[Endara] Well, I am really very pleased. At last there has been an acknowledgement of the Panamanian people and government. We have gone through a dictatorship and a very difficult transition period, and this has created many difficulties for the Panamanian people and government. We are now internationally recognized as a democratic nation in which all rights are respected. The reasons that prompted our suspension—General Noriega's conduct—have been totally overcome.

I believe this is a great diplomatic victory for Panama. I recall the late Foreign Minister Julio Linares with special fondness at this time, because he was the one who determined that one of the objectives of our foreign

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policy had to be to return to the Rio Group. I also thank our fraternal Latin American countries for this great recognition. Contrary to many who argue that Panama is a discredited country, I believe Panama's prestige has improved greatly on the international level.

[Noli] Mr. President, it seems many things are happening at the end of your term. One of them is Foreign Minister Mulino's upcoming trip to Cuba. Several media sources pointed out this morning that there is a possibility that Panama will renew its relations with the island. Is there any truth in this? Also, why have we waited until the end of your term to do this?

[Endara] I have to say that we have tried to improve our relations with Cuba throughout my entire term in office. We started off very badly with Cuba, as you will recall. We had many problems with Cuba during the first six or seven months of my government.

Nevertheless, as time passed, we started to grow closer and have developed friendly relations. Of course, we do want our entire continent to be democratic and democracy to prevail in Cuba. We have held private talks with Cuban President Dr. Fidel Castro and Cuban foreign ministers during our travels abroad to attend summits, and, on our last trip, we agreed that Foreign Minister Mulino would travel to Cuba.

This is taking place at the end of my presidential mandate and shows we are continuing to work up until the final days. We want the next government to find that the country has the best possible relations with foreign countries, even those countries with which we had difficulties at the beginning of our administration. It is important that the Panamanian foreign minister visit Cuba. I must also say that the Cuban foreign minister will probably stay a day in Panama the next time he tours the region. We talked with him in Cartagena de Indias and agreed that we would meet and talk. This is very positive, because when I leave the Presidency, the country will not have large differences with any country, especially with any country on our continent.

[Noli] Let us broach a domestic topic, Mr. President. Today, you will approve the Copyright Law. A press release issued by the Presidency asserts that you had several reservations about the law because it contained some points that could be used to the detriment of freedom of expression. You, however, later decided to approve the law because Panama's domestic and international image would be hurt if you vetoed it.

Mr. President, freedom of expression has been a key issue during your administration. Which is more important for Panama's domestic and international image—the jeopardizing of the freedom of expression or to somehow overlook your government's key concern?

[Endara] I would say that freedom of expression is more important than anything else. The Copyright Law is a law on which I have reflected considerably. One of the negative aspects of our legislation is that copyright issues are really neglected. Panama is well-known, both internationally and domestically, as a copyright violator. The rights of Panamanian authors are constantly being trampled upon. Internationally, we are looked upon as a pirate country in terms of copyright issues.

It has been a very difficult decision for me to approve this law. Nevertheless, really the law... [pauses] I have been listening to the positions expounded by the various groups. Also, I have carefully listened to the media, especially radio and television. They have pointed out the possibility that some of the articles included in the bill could be used inadequately, or better yet, misapplied. Nevertheless, this is the risk every new law encounters.

Every law, whether in Panama or anywhere else in the entire world, can be misapplied to the detriment of numerous rights. In the case of this law, we are talking about freedom of expression. I believe that abuses can and must be controlled by the Supreme Court of Justice through a constitutional guarantee amparo. Moreover, abuses must and should be controlled by appointing a suitable candidate to the position of copyright director, which is a key position. We cannot just appoint any lunatic, nincompoop, or individual with some sketchy ideas about freedom of expression to this position. It is very important that we appoint someone who is very prudent and highly respectful of the principles underlying the freedom of expression.

If I had vetoed this bill after considering the recommendations made by the media, I would have been sending a message to the international community that Panama is indeed a pirate in terms of intellectual property rights. You are well aware that here in Panama the Colon Free Zone, for example, is well-known for copying and pirating all sorts of products. As Panamanians, this does us no good, and it affects Panama's image as a place to carry out business, because we are looked upon with mistrust. If I had vetoed the bill because of those few articles, the message sent would have been completely inaccurate.

[Noli] Mr. President, what comments do you have with respect to the violent incidents that took place this weekend—incidents that included two fatalities, one of them a young athlete from the community of San Miguelito, and the other a young man who was spending the weekend at the Coronado beach resort?

[Endara] Violence is a problem throughout the entire world. Panama is a country that was fortunate to withdraw from the outside world for a long time and not have the problems such as the ones that are taking place in other countries.

[Noli] Nevertheless, Mr. President, with only 20 some days before your administration ends, is there nothing that can be done to at least conclude your presidency in peace?

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[Endara] The problem of violence is an individual problem. We could have police officers all across the country, and we still would not be able to eliminate episodes of individual violence when someone, for whatever reason, becomes enraged and decides to kill his fellow man. We really have to adopt stronger ethical beliefs in order to supplement police authority. Violence will exist as long as there are individuals who believe that they can resolve something through violence. Violence resolves nothing. I believe that we must place more emphasis on the individual, as well as stressing legal measures.

Keep in mind that there is an additional problem that leads to violence, and that is the problem of drugs. Unfortunately, drug consumption in Panama is on the rise. In my opinion, drug consumption and violence are directly related. Each day the struggle against drug consumption and trafficking must be intensified.

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Argentina

Menem 'Completely Ruled Out' Troops for Haiti

PY1108014594 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2046 GMT 10 Aug 94

[Text] Buenos Aires, 10 Aug (EFE)—Argentina's President Carlos Menem today completely ruled out the participation of Argentine troops in a possible armed invasion of Haiti.

Menem reiterated, however, that his government "will support" the UN Security Council resolution aimed at reestablishing freedom and democracy in that country.

"Argentina has already taken a position, which is to support the UN Security Council, not with the crude expression of invasion, which is being ill-used, but to reestablish democracy, freedom, and respect for human rights on the island and thus prevent it from becoming a little Rwanda," Menem said.

The head of state made these remarks while participating in the presentation of the book "Contract for the International Purchase and Sale of Merchandise" written by Raul Granillo Ocampo, Argentine ambassador to the United States.

In fact, however, despite Menem's remarks, the Argentine Government has still not determined the degree of participation of its Armed Forces in the event U.S. troops enter Haitian territory by force.

Menem denied that U.S. President Bill Clinton had requested Argentina's participation in an eventual invasion of the island.

Defense Official: Troops Not To Take Part in Haiti Landing

PY1108011894 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2201 GMT 10 Aug 94

[Text] Bahia Blanca, 10 Aug (NA)—On 10 August, Jorge Baeza, secretary of military affairs at the Defense Ministry, stated that a possible landing of UN troops in Haiti to oust General Raoul Cedras' de facto government and reinstate Jean-Bertrand Aristide as president cannot count on the participation of Argentine troops.

The official asserted that the Argentine soldiers will not intervene "in direct landing operations" if these events take place. He anticipated that Argentine troops may only participate in a second or third stage in order "to reestablish peace and to work toward the reconstruction of the country."

Baeza pointed out that two Argentine corvettes—the Guerrico, which is currently in Haitian territorial waters, and the Drummond, which will joint the Guerrico at the U.S. Roosevelt Road Base in Puerto Rico—will remain in the area until events reach the flashpoint.

Vice Admiral Enrique Molina Pico, the Navy chief of staff, told the crew of the Argentine corvette that in case they had to engage in battle, "they will know how to live up to the high degree of training they have received."

The corvette Drummond, commanded by line Captain Ricardo Jolly, cast off at 1230 local time from the Sea Fleet dock at the Puerto Belgrano Naval Base, near Bahia Blanca.

Further on Remarks

PA1108011094 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 2042 GMT 10 Aug 94

[Excerpt] Buenos Aires, 10 Aug (DPA)—The Argentine corvette Drumond today sailed for the Caribbean to join the naval blockade on Haiti, while the Argentine Government attempted to define the scope of its participation in UN actions to restore democracy in the Antillean nation.

The ship sailed from the city of Bahia Blanca in Buenos Aires and will arrive in the conflict zone in 20 days. It is believed the Drumond will replace the corvette Guerrico, which is currently in the area.

Jorge Baeza, secretary of military affairs of the Defense Ministry, said the return of the Guerrico is contingent on how the political situation in Haiti evolves. The official also stressed that Argentina's possible participation in an invasion of Haiti by a multinational force under the auspices of the United Nations "has been completely ruled out."

Nevertheless, Argentina can heighten its cooperation in terms of the naval blockade, he stated. [passage omitted]

[Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish at 0032 on 11 August transmits a related 300-word, Buenos Aires-datelined report that quotes Argentina's President Menem saying: "Argentina supports the UN Security Council, not with the intention of invading Haiti, but with the intention of restoring democracy, freedom, and respect for human rights."]

Menem Admits Possibility of Expelling Iranian Envoy

PY1008171794 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1522 GMT 10 Aug 94

[Excerpt] Buenos Aires, 10 Aug (NA)—President Carlos Menem today admitted the possibility that the Iranian ambassador could be expelled, lauded Judge Juan Jose Galeano's performance in the AMIA [Argentine-Israeli Mutual Association] bombing case, announced that the Justicialist Party will hold primaries to elect a presidential candidate, and confirmed that Jorge Dominguez will replace Saul Bouer as Buenos Aires mayor.

The president noted that Judge Galeano "is doing an exceptional job, and one that has required much insight and dedication." Menem said that the judge has had "the

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invaluable cooperation of the intelligence services" in investigating the 18 July terrorist attack.

Menem pointed out that the investigation headed by the judge involves "150 pages yielding a preliminary judgment one month after this despicable action, a judgment that will allow the detention of the people allegedly involved."

In response to some media that questioned Galeano for his delay in taking concrete measures, Menem indicated: "This was a spectacular job in which the judge acted quickly, despite the criticism leveled by some media that like to complain when someone does something and complain when they don't."

Concerning this issue, Menem confirmed: "Officials or former officials of the Iranian Embassy are involved. And, although it is a preliminary judgment, there is an indictment here following half-proofs in the case that is being investigated."

In this regard Menem indicated that the Foreign Ministry "will take the measures it deems appropriate, so as not to arrive at the kind of critical position that can only be taken after there is certainty as to the identity of the masterminds and perpetrators of this action."

Concerning the possibility of breaking relations with Iran if its involvement in the bombing is confirmed, the president pointed out: "This kind of measure should be taken, but the issue must be handled very carefully. The Foreign Ministry will therefore advise the president so that he can make the appropriate decisions."

Before making it clear that he was making these remarks "off the cuff, right after having become acquainted with the ruling," Menem noted: "At first impression I believe that the Iranian ambassador's recall or expulsion would be appropriate."

Menem noted that so far there have been no "problems at the Argentine Embassy in Iran" over the possible measures that the government may take. He made a comparison with Venezuela, which decided to expel Iranian diplomats "after having gathered evidence as to the positions" of Iranian representatives. [passage omitted]

Sources: Country 'Will Not Break' Ties With Iran

PY1008142094 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1308 GMT 10 Aug 94

[Excerpts] Buenos Aires, 10 Aug (EFE)—Diplomatic sources in Buenos Aires told EFE today that Argentina will not break relations with Iran, despite the fact that the Argentine courts have linked Iranian officials to the 18 July bombing in which the Israeli-Argentine Mutual Association (AMIA) headquarters were destroyed.

Judge Juan Jose Galeano announced on 9 August that he has requested the seizure of four Iranian diplomats who served during various periods at the Iranian Embassy in Buenos Aires, and that he suspects another three Iranian diplomats who are still accredited with the Argentine Government.

The sources indicated that the government of President Carlos Menem will request of Tehran that Moshen Rabbani, current cultural attache at the Iranian Embassy, give up his diplomatic immunity in order to testify before the courts, and that otherwise he would be declared "persona non grata." [passage omitted]

For his part, Foreign Vice Minister Fernando Petrella said today that the government would begin domestic and foreign negotiations to seize the four Iranian diplomats if the Supreme Court files a petition in this regard.

Petrella noted that the Supreme Court "must carefully review the entire case, and determine whether it is appropriate to investigate the activities of the officials who have been in Argentina and those who are still here."

In remarks to a local radio station this morning, the foreign vice minister explained that the Supreme Court will decide on "whether it is advisable and appropriate to interrogate" Iranian citizens Abbas Zarrabi Krorasani, Mahvash Mousef Gholanreza, Ahmad Allameh Falsafi, and Akbar Parvaresch [names as received], whose seizure was requested by Judge Galeano.

Petrella pointed out that, if the Supreme Court requires it, "the Foreign Ministry may take action in the sense of soliciting international cooperation to capture the people allegedly involved in the AMIA bombing. [no closing quotation marks as received]

Judge Galeano's ruling indicates that if the people involved "use their diplomatic immunity, it will be up to the Supreme Court to decide their fate."

Iranian Ambassador Summoned to Foreign Ministry

PY1008232294 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2215 GMT 10 Aug 94

[Text] Buenos Aires, 10 Aug (NA)—Hadi Soleymanpur, the Iranian ambassador in Argentina, arrived at the Argentine Foreign Ministry at 1900 [2200 GMT]. There Foreign Minister Guido Di Tella will reportedly present him with a note rejecting the protest lodged by the Iranian Government against the court report issued by Federal Judge Juan Jose Galeano.

The arrival of the Iranian ambassador was rather tumultuous, since scores of journalists and cameramen posted at the main gate of the Foreign Ministry swooped on the diplomat in order to ask him questions, but Soleymanpor made no comments.

Some television reporters and several photographers fell to the ground amid the shoving and pushing that took place when the ambassador arrived.

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Government To Request Extradition of 4 Iranians

PY1108021794 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 0054 GMT 11 Aug 94

[Text] Buenos Aires, 10 Aug (NA)—The Argentine Government will request the extradition of the four Iranian citizens presumably involved in the attack on the Argentine-Israeli Mutual Association [AMIA] building as soon as Judge Juan Jose Galeano issues the corresponding rogatory letters.

This was what Foreign Minister Guido Di Tella said tonight in anticipation to Iranian Ambassador Hadi Solaymanpor during a one-hour meeting at the Foreign Ministry.

At the end of the meeting, the San Martin Palace [Foreign Ministry] issued a communique summarizing the letter that Di Tella handed to Suleiman Pour for transmittal to the Iranian foreign minister.

The document points out that "the gravity of the terrorist attack that killed dozens of innocent people and left hundreds wounded makes any reluctance to provide all the information in the hands of your government and officials, no matter their rank or position, unjustifiable."

The letter passed by Di Tella rejects the Iranian Government protest made this afternoon with regard to the citing of Iranian citizens in Judge Galeano's report. The letter says the Argentine Government "cannot accept the characterization made by the Iranian Foreign Ministry with respect to Judge Galeano's report."

The document, referring to Tehran's protest, says: "Your government's remarks are unacceptable, as much for the terms used as for the content."

The note passed to the Iranian ambassador points out that Galeano's decision, among other things, involves Iranian citizens and calls for the capture, inside or outside of the country, of Akbar Parvaresch, Ahmad Allameh Falsafi, 'Abbas Zarkabi Khorasani, and Mahvash Monsef Gholamreza [names as received] in order to receive their testimonies.

Regarding this issue, Solaymanpor said that the four Iranian citizens were in Iran at the time of the attack, but did not specify whether they would be willing to travel to Argentina to testify.

Di Tella then told him that Argentina will request the extradition of these four Iranians as soon as the judge hearing the case issues the appropriate rogatory letters.

In the letter written to his Iranian counterpart, the foreign minister requested the Iranian Government to cooperate with the Argentine judicial authorities so that the aforementioned persons may testify before the Argentine courts, as was requested by Judge Galeano.

This afternoon, Solaymanpor was summoned to the Foreign Ministry, where, on the 14th floor, he held a meeting with Di Tella that lasted for an hour. Di Tella was accompanied by Deputy Foreign Minister Fernando Petrella, Secretary General Andres Cisneros, and Foreign Policy Under Secretary Rogelio Pfirter.

Foreign Ministry authorities took advantage of this opportunity to request the Iranian Government to order that two other Iranian diplomats who are currently on a tour in Buenos Aires stay in this city, as they may be subpoenaed by the Supreme Court once the latter takes over the AMIA case.

Solaymanpor assured Di Tella that these two Iranians will stay in Buenos Aires. He nonetheless did not make it clear whether his government would be willing to strip them of their diplomatic immunity so that they may make a deposition before the Supreme Court.

During a news conference, Di Tella stated that the Iranian ambassador termed the inclusion of Akbar Parvaresch [name as received] in the court report released by Judge Galeano "unfair," claiming that he is "a prestigious Iranian intellectual who had been deputy and minister of culture of his government."

Di Tella asserted that the arrest order for four Iranian citizens "implies that there is a most serious event behind it." Nevertheless, he made it clear that the Foreign Ministry is willing to receive, within a strict time limit, all the clarifications that Tehran wishes to make.

"We are exercising extreme caution in this affair and will continue to act in keeping with the steps taken by the Argentine justice," he noted.

This notwithstanding, Di Tella made it clear that the Iranian Government's cooperation "must be extremely close and evident in order to dispel all the doubts that have arisen."

Iran 'Vigorously' Rejects Judge Galeano's Report

PY1108005894 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2321 GMT 10 Aug 94

[Iranian names as received]

[Text] Buenos Aires, 10 Aug (NA)—The Iranian Government today vigorously rejected the Argentine justice's report on the attack on the Argentine-Israeli Mutual Association [AMIA] building "due to the groundless and offensive accusations" made in the report "against a group of citizens" from this country.

The Iranian Embassy characterized Judge Juan Jose Galeano's report as "rude and groundless," and protested "any slander against Iranian officials or religious leaders."

The Iranian Embassy today issued a communique explaining the situation of the four Iranian citizens mentioned in the report; Judge Galeano had made a national and international call for their arrest.

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Akbar Parvaresch, "deputy of the Islamic Consultative Assembly, officially visited Argentina between 3 and 6 December 1993. On the occasion, he met with congressional representatives."

Ahmad Allameh Falsafi was assigned to the Iranian Embassy in Buenos Aires between July 1989 and September 1992. In September of 1992 he returned to his country, and as of this moment has not left again.

Abbas Zarkabi Khorasani was assigned to the Iranian Embassy in Buenos Aires between October 1987 and March 1990. The Iranian Embassy report says that since that time, he traveled to South America only once—in December 1990, to carry out a nine-day diplomatic mission to Brazil.

Mahvash Monsef Gholamreza was assigned to the Iranian Embassy in Buenos Aires from January 1988 to October of the same year and he has not visited the American continent since then.

The communique "calls the attention of the Argentine Government" to the fact that the abovementioned officials left Argentina "from nine months to six years ago," and "stresses the obvious lack of grounds for the accusations mentioned in the Argentine justice's report."

Judge Probing AMIA Bombing Denies Inquest Over

PY1108032694 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2208 GMT 10 Aug 94

[Text] Buenos Aires, 10 Aug (NA)—On 10 August, Federal Judge Juan Jose Galeano categorically denied that the inquest on the bloody attack perpetrated on the Argentine-Israeli Mutual Association [AMIA] headquarters has been "concluded." He made it clear that "some leads which are being investigated have not been included in the court report" he submitted to the Supreme Court.

Galeano was reluctant to provide more details "for obvious reasons," since, according to what he said, he did not want "to mention in the court report what these leads were, but let us hope that they yield fruit."

In remarks made at Courthouse, Judge Galeano said: "We are following some clues that can help us round out the missing links in the inquest."

He objected to reports that contended that he wanted to "monopolize the case," noting that they "have given rise to a sort of conflict between the Supreme Court and Galeano."

"If according to the law the Supreme Court has to take over the investigation, I will comply with it. I am a member of the judiciary and the Supreme Court is the head of this branch of government," he noted.

This discussion came to the forefront when it was learned that there were Iranian diplomats allegedly implicated in the attack because if this hypothesis is confirmed, the inquest—at least in this aspect—would have to be passed on to the Supreme Court.

Eamon Mullen and Jose Barbaccia, the federal prosecutors who participated in the investigation, today expressed their "satisfaction" with Judge Galeano's actions. Moreover, they confirmed that there was a connection between the attack on the AMIA and the one perpetrated on the Israeli Embassy in Buenos Aires in March 1992.

They pointed out that Judge Galeano's inquest "has revealed" that the "masterminds" of both attacks "were diplomats from the Islamic Republic of Iran accredited to the Argentine Republic."

They nevertheless made a qualitative distinction between both attacks, for in their view, despite the fact that the attack on the Israeli Embassy took place in Argentine territory, "it had a clearly defined objective, namely, the State of Israel, although it also had an effect on Argentine citizens and goods."

With regard to the AMIA attack, the prosecutors stated that "it was perpetrated on an Argentine institution that groups together members of the Jewish-Argentine community, viz, it directly affected our nation."

"That is how things stand. We cannot overlook the fact that the main victims of this attack were people, Argentines, who had nothing to do with the conflict raging thousands of kilometers from our country. Most of the fatalities belonged to a community that has been part of the social makeup of our society for more than a century," said the prosecutors in their court report.

They totally agreed with Galeano's considerations with regard to how the alleged perpetrators of both attacks had seemingly acted.

To that effect, they pointed out that the latter "allegedly operate in each country where they have representations that act like veritable terrorist cells," protected by the domestic laws that prevent Argentine jurisdiction from being applied relative "to the agents" who perpetrated the attack.

They asserted that "the modus operandi" of the terrorists who shook our society by perpetrating two attacks consisted in turning the provisions established in the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations (1961), especially as pertain to the inviolability of diplomats, to their own advantage.

In conclusion, Mullen and Barbaccia referred to what they called "a conflict of interests," stemming from the instructions to strictly respect the confidentiality of the case. They pointed out that "on the one hand, the fact that the information collected about the case is confidential is beneficial and makes it possible to undertake an efficient investigation to fully clear up the case. On the other hand, one finds that the press has the right and duty to inform."

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With regard to this, they called upon some "social communicators" to act "reflectively" so that "a sense of prudence" may inform the press coverage of an event such as this and thus enable the courts to have the necessary leeway the inquest requires.

Judge Galeano stated today that he had distributed several copies of the court report to journalists accredited to Courthouse and had offered to hand diskettes of this ruling.

Nevertheless, he handed only one copy of his ruling to them several hours after the two leading papers in the country had received copies of the aforementioned diskettes without the operative part and after the court report had been released by a radio station. The reporters accredited to Courthouse viewed this as "unfair and discriminatory" treatment.

Committee To Study Falklands Human Rights 'Violation'

PY0908222294 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 0022 GMT 9 Aug 94

[Text] Buenos Aires, 8 Aug (NA)—Defense Minister Oscar Camilion today ordered the creation of a committee to be made up of representatives from the three armed services in order to continue with the investigation into the violation of the human rights of Argentine soldiers during the Malvinas war.

The minister also decided to declassify the documentation that was compiled in the final report on the investigations into the excesses that were committed during the South Atlantic conflict prepared by Norberto Martina, the vicar of the Armed Forces, and by Armed Forces Auditor Eugenio Miari, who was in charge of the investigative committee.

Camilion's resolution, which is numbered 1,171, states that Chief of the General Staff Lieutenant General Mario Candido Diaz will proceed to create a committee that will include representatives from the three forces with the object of "continuing and concluding the investigations."

It has been learned that the decision that has been made by the Defense Ministry comes within the framework of the decision of English authorities to conclude the investigation into alleged human rights violations, based on the contents of the 1949 Geneva Convention, by that country's soldiers during the Malvinas war.

The final report consists of the testimony given by the war veterans that had denounced abuse.

In addition, the committee received a report from the Argentine Navy maintaining that some of the soldiers who died in the sinking of the cruiser General Belgrano "are presumably alive and deprived of their freedom."

An evaluation of the material that had been obtained was made during one of the stages of the investigation and the conclusion was that the British troops "violated the Geneva Convention" on at least two occasions.

These two incidents are the "attempt to murder Corporal Jose Oscar Carrizo" and the "murder of Noncommissioned Officer Felix Oscar Artuso."

In the first case, Carrizo narrated how, after the battle of Mount Longdon, the English soldiers "presumably tried to shoot him in the head when he was an unarmed prisoner."

In the second case, Frigate Captain Alberto Horacio Bicain, retired, appeared before the court and narrated how a British soldier had murdered Artuso when he was being transferred from the South Georgias in an English vessel.

In addition, the contents of the final report, which is signed by Miari, the military auditor, prove that several Argentine prisoners "carried out the task of collecting and transferring war materiel from the battlefield," with three soldiers having died and eight receiving wounds.

Other violations carried out by the English troops during the Malvinas war that were confirmed in the document consist of the use of "banned fragmentation ammunition" and the "murder of those wounded on the battlefield.

The final report also highlights the fact that Argentina "ratified the Additional Protocol of the 12 August 1949 Geneva Convention regarding the protection of the victims of armed conflicts that are not of an international nature."

In this respect, Camilion also ordered that Resolution No. 1,171 and the final report be sent to the Foreign Ministry and to the War Veterans Federation.

Armed Forces Deem Belgrano Sinking Legitimate

PY0908230194 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 9 Aug 94 p 1

[Text] [DYN]—The sinking of the warship Belgrano during the Malvinas war in 1982 has been officially accepted as a legitimate act of war by the Argentine Armed Forces, in a report released yesterday which otherwise cites Britain for a number of war crimes.

Although its focus is on other alleged violations of the Geneva Convention, the report legitimizes the sinking of the Argentine cruiser, in which 300 men died, by the British submarine Conqueror, while the Belgrano sailed outside the British-implosed "exclusion zone" around the Malvinas. The sinking marked a turning point in the war, leaving many Argentines dispirited and asking themselves if regaining the islands was worth the loss of such a number of young lives.

At the same time, the report finds the British forces in the war responsible for breaking the Geneva Convention

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in a number of circumstances and urges the government to demand the trial in Britain of "those responsible for the proven violations."

It cites among these the homicide of non-commissioned officer Felix Oscar Artuso, the attempted homicide of Corporal Jose Carrizo and the deaths of Martin Flores, Jose Ramon Ferrau and Rafael Barrios and the injury of six others while they were forced to move explosives from the battlefield.

It also claims that British forces shot dead six wounded Argentine soldiers, giving their last names as Quintana, Gramissi, Delgado, Ferreira, Ronconi, Petruccelle and Maidana.

The report—based on the investigation by chief military chaplain Norberto Martina, drafted by Brigadier Eugenio Javier Miari and released by the Defense Ministry—maintains that the Belgrano sinking was a "non-illegitimate act of war" for which Britain is not criminally responsible.

It confirms that the Belgrano was sunk outside the "exclusion zone" but that "acts of war can be carried out in all of the enemy's territory ... They can also take place in those areas over which no state can claim sovereignty, in international waters ... Argentina could have attacked any military objective within the United Kingdom ... as it also would have been legitimate for the United Kingdom to carry out such acts in similar sovereign areas of Argentina."

CGT Expresses 'Staunch Support' for Menem Reelection

PY1108012194 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 10 Aug 94 p 2

[Text] [DYN-NA] The General Labour Confederation (CGT) yesterday expressed its staunch support for the re-election of President Carlos Menem and Buenos Aires Governor Eduardo Duhalde following a meeting with the head of state yesterday in Olivos presidential residence.

The umbrella group reportedly asked Menem to include trade unionists as candidates for Congress and to appoint CGT officials to key posts at the Health Ministry and the BHN National Mortgage Bank.

The agreement was sealed yesterday at Olivos where Menem met with a CGT delegation headed by secretary-general Antonio Cassia.

After the talks, the CGT staged a plenary session where the motion to actively support the re-election of Menem and Duhalde was approved. The CGT-government pact also includes the revision of the Menem administration's plans to reform current labour legislation. Menem was accompanied at Olivos by Presidential Chief-of-Staff Eduardo Bauza, Economy Minister Domingo Cavallo and Labour Minister Armando Caro Figueroa.

The dissident Argentine Workers Movement (MTA) and Argentine Workers Congress (CTA) umbrella groups were invited but did not attend the CGT meeting.

The CGT said in a statement that it will "mobilize its rank and file to back the presidential re-election of Carlos Menem and Eduardo Duhalde as governor of Buenos Aires province."

Despite the declaration of support, Cassia said that "the CGT is Peronist and not pro-government," adding that the CGT had asked for "political room" within the Justicialist Party to campaign for Menem's re-election.

The Mendoza oil workers leader said that the CGT had asked Menem for "more participation in government decisions, in particular the five-year economic plan which will include the development of housing projects and public works."

Cassia attended the meeting accompanied by a delegation including unionists Jose Pedraza (railwaymen's union), Carlos West Ocampo (health workers), Ruben Pereyra (waterworks employees) and Andres Rodriguez (UPCN civil servants). At the meeting Cavallo and Caro Figueroa revealed aspects of the government's future five-year economic plan scheduled to be announced in October.

Opposition Platform for 'Government Alternative' Presented

PY0908155994 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2346 GMT 8 Aug 94

[Text] Buenos Aires, 8 Aug (NA)—Deputy Carlos "Chacho" Alvarez (Grand Front) [FG], Deputy Federico Storani (UCR) [Radical Civic Union], and Mendoza Senator Jose Bordon (PJ) [Justicialist Party] today released the basic guidelines for a platform agreement that they will jointly promote "as a government alternative" to the current Menem administration.

The proposal includes the first joint suggestions that the three factions have on six basic issues: the economy, education, institutional policies, international policies, the role of the state, and social policies. The proposal was introduced during a conference on the first floor of the El Molino pastry shop.

The main points of the proposal confirm that it is necessary to maintain "the separation of government branches and the independence of the courts," support free public education, and propose the integration of regional economies and small and medium-sized industries into our country's production reactivation drive.

The proposal, including a joint political declaration and the initial conclusions of the commissions, was read by Carlos Campolongo, who recently was [PJ leader] Julio Cesar Araoz's press adviser.

After the "Molino Declaration," as political advisers informally described it, was read, Bordon, Storani, and Alvarez held a news conference.

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At this point, the three politicians agreed on downplaying the significance of a possible power struggle to establish a coalition presidential ticket. They pointed out: "We want to demonstrate that leaders from different political parties can establish a common platform agreement."

Asked about his PJ membership, Bordon, the leader of the Justicialist Change faction, supplied an ambiguous response, pointing out: "This issue will be resolved depending on the circumstances." Concerning the FG presidential candidate, Alvarez pointed out: "This issue will be resolved after the Constituent Assembly ends."

For his party, the Radical Convergence faction leader confirmed his stance of "joining forces under an alliance to defeat the Menemist coalition."

In their declaration, the politicians emphasized that it is necessary "to reconcile the people with politics" as the latter "is currently identified with corruption, injustice, and inefficiency." The politicians therefore asked for "honesty" in public activities.

The politicians also indicated: "We belong to different party expressions. We have achieved agreement in our struggle for liberty and justice." They emphasized: "Ideals can be reconciled with efficient management, and politics with ethics."

Before introducing the declaration, the six commissions, which were equitably coordinated by members of the three technical-political teams, outlined the suggestions, grouping them under topics, during a discussion that began shortly after 1000 and ended at 1700.

The final consensus proposals will be introduced on 22 August in the Argentine Chamber of Deputies Lost Steps Hall.

The Economy Commission, which was coordinated by FG Deputy Daniel Novak, declared that it is necessary "to integrate our country into world economy, integrate small and medium-seized industries into regional economies, promote productive employment, and emphasize policies of austerity in public and private areas."

The Education, Science, and Technology Commission, coordinated by FG Deputy Adriana Puiggros, pledged "to endorse free public education and improve teachers' professional and salary levels." In this regard this commission established that "scientific-technological research" represents a priority.

One of the basic points established by the Role of the State and Civilian Society Commission, coordinated by Pedro del Piero (Justicialist Change faction), is "to recover the state's ability in its basic functions involving justice, security, education, and health."

Concerning the Social Policies Commission, headed by UCR Deputy Aldo Isuani, it expressed the goal of "ending inefficient spending, and admitting it before all social strata."

The Institutional Policies Commission, coordinated by pro-Storani leader Carlos Soukiassian, expressed the significance of "enhancing the state of law, based on the separation of government branches, with full court independence." The commission also asked for "honesty in public activities."

The Foreign Policy Commission, coordinated by pro-Bordon leader Federico Mirre, expressed that it "is necessary to assign priority to national interests and arrange them coherently, once they have been identified."

In addition to the commissions forming the political and economic teams, MID [Integration and Development Movement] Vice President Jose Sabate; Senator Alfredo Avelin from the Renewal Crusade Party of San Juan; Gerardo Conte Grand; former Mendoza Governor Arturo Lafalla; Tucuman Deputy Manuel Martinez Zuccardi; and pro-Aldo Rico leader Martin Mendoza were also present on the first floor of El Molino.

FG Constituent Assembly members Carlos Auyero, Graciela Fernandez Meijide, and Juan Pablo Cafiero; FG Buenos Aires councilmen Anibal Ibarra and Eduardo Jozami; and Democratic Social Party President Hector Bravo, among others, also participated in the discussions.

Plan to Change Compulsory Military Service Eyed

PY1008152794 Buenos Aires CLARIN in Spanish 4 Aug 94 p 21

[Text] According to a reform project drawn up by the three branches of the Armed Forces to replace compulsory military service with a voluntary service, the Armed Forces will as of 1995 pay 348 pesos per month to each voluntary soldier.

According to a report presented yesterday to journalists by Lieutenant General Mario Candido Diaz, the joint staff chief, admission into the professional cadre will be opened in September for single men and women ranging between 18 and 24 years of age, born in Argentina or with Argentine citizenship, and who have completed the seventh grade.

The age limit for remaining in the professional service would be 26 years of age, and contracts would be for a two-year period with the possibility of renewal. Monthly pay would also have a "special supplement," depending on the voluntary soldier's assignment.

Drafting would be regional, and volunteers may choose their assignment and a specialty, participate in peace missions abroad, and have the possibility of pursuing their secondary school studies at official institutes.

Future professional soldiers will enjoy social benefits and health and social security coverage. Upon completing their service period, they will receive a specialty or trade certificate and an ability and conduct certificate.

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The upgrading of the Armed Forces cadres will force an increase of 250 million pesos in the Armed Forces budget. This figure reflects the yearly cost per person for each branch of the Armed Forces, broken down as follows: 185 million pesos for the Army, 32 million pesos for the Navy, and 30.5 million pesos for the Air Force.

The report notes that the new system was raised following "a resolution issued by the president, based on a proposal raised by the three armed forces to meet a requirement that the president, as commander in chief, made to the chiefs of staff on 16 May."

Repercussions from the killing of soldier Omar Carrasco at the 161st Artillery Group of Zapala prompted a military service reform in April. President Menem asked the Armed Forces to draw up a reform project, bearing in mind the social impact caused by Carrasco's killing. Before promoting the military service reform, the government took into account that 1995 will be strongly marked by the elections.

According to the project, however, the Armed Forces had already proposed the drafting of professional troops "after the end of the Malvinas war."

The text, which already has been approved by President Menem, specifically states that the time to implement voluntary service "is scarce," and that it is therefore necessary to quickly make the required funds available.

The proposal adds that "the most important point that must be taken into account for the system's success involves the ability to keep the soldiers in the ranks," thus allowing the reform "to keep the proper military operational ability and reduce the cost of the model."

The report mentions "guaranteeing the required number of trained soldiers and seamen" as a "problem" in changing the system.

The report does not specify the number of volunteers to be drafted, but it is taken for granted that it would total 26,500 men, of whom 20,000 would be for the Army, 3,500 for the Navy, and 3,000 for the Air Force.

Indigenous Group Seeks To Recoup Expropriated Lands

94SM0422A Buenos Aires CLARIN in Spanish 10 Jul 94 pp 18-19

[Interview with Carlos Reboratti, director of the Geography Institute of the University of Buenos Aires, by Daniel Ulanovsky Sack; place and date not given; first paragraph is CLARIN introduction]

[Text] The story has infrequently been told of how an Indian people were deprived of their lands, how laws were passed that subjugated them to the Spaniards, and why, since 1816, the independent republic has done nothing to change the situation. Last year a Kolla group from Salta Province came to Buenos Aires seeking the expropriation of lands taken from their ancestors three centuries earlier. Researcher Carlos Reboratti, director of the Geography Institute of the University of Buenos Aires and a former official of the Center for Population Studies, has for a number of years studied the status of this community and the effects of their subjugation on their diet and on the regional economy. Today not even good intentions are enough to help the Kollas: the expropriation laws have still not been implemented, and they may expire. Moreover, the government has not appointed a director for the National Institute of Indigenous Affairs, the agency responsible for distributing lands among the 4,000 Kollas of the area.

[Ulanovsky Sack] The colonial era is an anecdotal memory for the majority of the Argentine people. However, some people still suffer from the consequences of the laws that "entrusted" them to the Spanish. Is it true that a group of indigenous Kollas from Salta—who last year demonstrated in Congress Plaza—is seeking a solution to a dispute that began 300 years ago?

[Reboratti] Yes. They live in the north of Salta Province and they are descendants of indigenous people who were subjugated by two institutions of colonialism. One was the *encomienda* [trust], which gave a Spaniard power over a group of native tribes, enabling him to receive tribute from them. The *merced* [favor], though, was a territorial right: the king granted lands to some conquistadores and the indigenous peoples who lived within those boundaries had to work for the new lord. The area where the group of Salta Kollas of whom I am speaking lives is known as Alto Bermejo [Upper Bermejo], as that is where the source of the Bermejo River lies; it is near the border of Jujuy Province and also near the Bolivian border.

[Ulanovsky Sack] What is the relation between the situation that they suffered during colonialism and their present situation?

[Reboratti] It is the same problem. The lands which at one time the King of Spain took from them were never restored by the Republic after we became independent. This is the history of the situation: a Spaniard lived in that area, who became the Marquis of Yavi. He had an *encomienda* over tribes of the area and in about 1700 he married a 10-year-old girl who inherited a *merced* over lands in the same region. So this combined to form a system of double subjection of these groups of indigenous Kollas; they were owners of their lands, and they could also make the Kollas work for them.

[Ulanovsky Sack] Were these lands rich enough to support the lifestyle of a marquis?

[Reboratti] The marquis of Yavi was a very special man, who remained in the area, unlike some other nobles. For example, you can still visit the village church that was his private chapel. Economically, the area was prosperous during the days of colonialism because it provided fodder for animals in the caravans going to Potosi, a very wealthy area of Bolivia because of its silver mine. There

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was also a fairly strong mule trade in the region, and the marquis' ranch benefited because it produced good alfalfa to feed these animals.

[Ulanovsky Sack] When Argentina became independent in 1816, did the lives of the Kollas change in any way? Did they have any concept that they now belonged to a new nation, or did that sort of information not reach them?

[Reboratti] They had no concept of being part of a nation. Actually, a descendant of the Marquis of Yavi—who inherited his title—fought in the war for independence on the pro-independence side and died in prison. In 1830 his son took part in a war between Argentina and Bolivia, but he fought with the Bolivian troops; the borders were still unclear. In any event, independence brought no changes to the daily lives of this Kolla group, with the exception of their legal status. In 1813, Argentina—though it was not formally independent, it was already acting as such—eliminated the *encomienda*. But people who held a *merced* over lands granted by the king were recognized as having property rights to this land.

Social Control

[Ulanovsky Sack] And the indigenous people had to start to pay rent for the land on which they lived?

[Reboratti] Yes. After being tied to the land, which was part of the colonial system, the indigenous peoples moved to monetary subjection that was more in line with the mercantilist country being developed. They were free to work wherever they liked—though in reality the only source of work was the ranch—and they had to pay a fee to cultivate the land. At that time, the economic value of this area began to decline and ranches like those of the former marquis of Yavi—upon independence, titles of nobility came to an end—became more a form of social control than a source of real wealth for their owners. It did not matter how much an indigenous family who lived there paid, but having them under control meant that no social problems would be generated.

[Ulanovsky Sack] Were there at any time political protests by the Indians of this region?

[Reboratti] In 1870 there was a major mobilization of campesinos and indigenous people in the Puna region who were rebelling against the land tenure system. That led to a battle against the national troops in the Quera area. People who lived in the lands of the descendants of the marquis took part in those uprisings.

[Ulanovsky Sack] Is all this land still owned by the same family?

[Reboratti] Part of it. What was the *merced* of Yavi is now divided among three or four ranches. But until the 1960's colonial customs remained quite alive. A descendant of the marquis, Dona Hortensia Campero, lived in the city of Salta. She used to visit the lands quite frequently and talk with all the inhabitants of the area. They paid her a sort of ancestral tribute.

[Ulanovsky Sack] Do the descendants of the Kollas still pay rent to live on these ranches?

[Reboratti] They pay practically no rent for the land now, but they are still subjected to a fairly unjust situation, which has led to their present claim. At the beginning of this century, the lands of the marquis began to be leased to sugar mills. As labor was needed, the indigenous peoples were forced to work on the sugar harvest during some months of the year. At that time they were fairly strict about the rent payment for the land. It was not so much a matter of the amount of money that was being collected, but rather they were required to pay it in cash, so they needed to earn a wage, and thus were forced to work in the sugar mill.

[Ulanovsky Sack] That has happened to campesinos all over the world; nobody earned a wage in the beginning.

[Reboratti] That is true but, in this case, it created serious family problems. During the winter the men went down to work on the sugar harvest and they could not spend those months—which were not very active in agriculture—taking care of their livestock, weaving, and fixing their houses.

[Ulanovsky Sack] Until the sugar mills began to operate, what did the Kollas who inhabited those lands live on?

[Reboratti] In the middle of the last century, when the planting of pasture grasses and the mule trade ceased to be profitable, the region lost commercial significance. But that did not affect the life of the indigenous peoples, which was based on barter and subsistence agriculture. As they had been affiliated with the Inca Empire, they worked the land in terraces; on the highest levels, they planted beans; on the middle levels, potatoes; and at lower levels, corn. They also had some llamas and sheep.

[Ulanovsky Sack] You speak of terraces; what is that region like geographically?

[Reboratti] It is a land of hills; the highest are 5,000 meters. Their low areas are covered with leafy forests.

What the Kollas Want

[Ulanovsky Sack] At the start of this report, we mentioned that the Kollas of this area demonstrated in Buenos Aires last year. What do they want?

[Reboratti] They want part of the lands which at one time the Spanish crown granted to the Marquis of Yavi. During the 19th century, the highest court of Salta Province recognized the heirs of the marquis as owners of the lands based on "immemorial rights." Today part of that land still belongs to the Yavi descendants, and another part has been sold. But in all the region of the old *merced* there are sugar mills and sawmills operating. The indigenous peoples are asking that parts of that area be expropriated and turned over to them as their property.

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Some steps have actually been taken in that direction, but they have all been made in an irrational manner.

[Ulanovsky Sack] Why?

[Reboratti] One of the mills located in these lands, the San Martin de Tabacal, offered to give them 70,000 hectares in the hills. The Kollas accepted, but also asked for another 15,000 hectares of forest land so they could bring their livestock down in the winter. If not, their productive system would suffer.

[Ulanovsky Sack] So the discussion is now about those hectares in the forest?

[Reboratti] No...or not so much that. The expropriation law passed last October was poorly written and only covered the 15,000 hectares of forest lands, forgetting the part that the mill was prepared to turn over without problems, the 70,000 hectares in the hills.

[Ulanovsky Sack] That sounds like some sort of scam.

[Reboratti] It was partly because the problem was never studied thoroughly. But there is still more: for the transfer to the indigenous peoples of these 15,000 hectares and of another 125,000 that were later added—in an area known as the Finca Santiago, also a former property of the marquis—the laws stipulated that the state is to be represented by the National Institute of Indigenous Affairs. But the government has not officially appointed the institute's officials. This creates a problem that is made worse by the lack of concrete action: according to the present law, expropriations expire if they are not carried out within a period of two years. One of these laws is already 10 months old, and if the term expires, the land grant will lapse. Government officials should realize that the destinies of some 4,000 people are at stake.

[Ulanovsky Sack] Let us assume that things work out and the Kollas become owners of these lands. What can they do to maintain their traditions but at the same time become a nonmarginal part of the agricultural system? I do not think the answer is simply to engage in subsistence agriculture.

[Reboratti] I believe the process has to take place in distinct steps. On one hand, it would be interesting for there to be a return to agriculture and livestock raising because, even if it were on a subsistence level, that would give them a better diet than they have now. Remember that as the native peoples began to work for wages in the sugar mills and sawmills, their own crops were somewhat abandoned, and so their diet of corn, beans, potatoes, and a very little meat became impoverished by the introduction of refined foods like pasta and rice. But I do agree that in the midterm period this project is not viable for the development of a community.

[Ulanovsky Sack] So what could they do?

[Reboratti] There are two approaches that seem possible, both related to the region. One of them is tourism: in this area you can go from the *puna* [high Andean plateau] to the virgin forest—one of the few still remaining in Argentina—in two hours, and it is a great trip. Moreover, the Andean culture is very much alive and it is evident in the people's customs and in the village architecture. This is a potential that can be tapped, but it would require improving the access roads and obviously building hotels. The other approach is related to agriculture. This area is free of plant blights, and so it is good for seed propagation—like kidney beans, which originated in this region. These might be two possibilities for regional development. And for the first time in centuries, they would be controlled by the indigenous groups themselves.

Ω Media Notes: Economic Reports

94P21048A

[Editorial Report]

Justicialists Urge Shift in Economic Policy

Current discussion among members of the Justicialist Party (PJ) has focused on the need to move away from an economic policy "anchored only in stability" and toward a policy which will "produce prospects for development during the electoral period which is already under way," according to an article in the 10 July Buenos Aires daily CLARIN. Along these lines, the 14 July Buenos Aires daily LA NACION reports, Justicialist Deputy Antonio Erman Gonzalez recently urged the government to take corrective economic measures. Stressing that stability "is not an end in itself," the former economy minister asserted that the government should speed up regional economic restructuring, provide adequate financing for agriculture, and make other corrections to economic policy. Directing his comments at Economy Minister Cavallo, Gonzalez said that the National Bank should become "more flexible" and "more reasonable." It should "be on the people's side, so it can respond to what the president orders and decides," he added, "drawing a dividing line between the chief of state and the economy minister." Without continual growth, said Gonzalez, the economy becomes stagnant. He then warned, "it would be too arrogant and dangerous to think that Menem's reelection in 1995 is guaranteed." Roberto Alemann Criticizes Free-Trade Zones, U.S. Trade Policy

"It is not advisable for Argentina to join NAFTA" or a "free trade zone with Europe," former Economy Minister Roberto Alemann asserted at a luncheon organized by the Argentine section of the Inter-American Council for Trade and Production. According to a report on his remarks published in the 3 July Buenos Aires daily LA PRENSA, the influential economist explained that to view such zones only from the standpoint of a free flow of goods among member countries is to see "only half the truth," because free-trade practices among a particular group translate into "discrimination against third parties." While Alemann did not object to neighboring countries sharing free-trade privileges, he stressed that when proximity is not a factor, other kinds of free-trade

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agreements are discriminatory. "These are the issues that Latin America is facing today.... If one of our countries teams up with the United States, Europe, or with Asia, it gives the supplier of that country an advantage over the suppliers of other countries. This distorts trade."

Latin Americans ought to keep an eye on Asia because "that's where our markets of the future are," asserted Alemann. He explained that Asia has grown without resorting to free-trade zones or customs unions. "Things will turn out very badly," he added, if Latin America intends to approach the Asians, but begins by discriminating against them by offering preferential treatment to the United States or Europe.

Furthermore, Alemann said, he has observed "with deep concern" the change from a strong nondiscriminatory U.S. trade policy to one that leans toward discriminatory practices. He cited Chapter 108 of the U.S. law approving NAFTA as an example: The first goal in Chapter 108, which contains guidelines for U.S. negotiators, is "to obtain preferential treatment for our [U.S.] exports." According to Alemann, "In this way, Clinton is violating the very essence of U.S. society, which is based on individual freedom, competition, equal treatment, and equality before the law."

Bolivia

Sanchez State of Nation Address

PY0908014594 La Paz Television Nacional Network in Spanish 2030 GMT 6 Aug 94

[State of the nation address by President Gonzalo Sanchez de Lozada on the 169th anniversary of Bolivian independence and the opening of Congress, from the Congress building in La Paz—live]

[Text] Your Excellency President of the Republic of Paraguay and dear friend Juan Carlos Wasmosy, dignified members of the Paraguayan delegation, Your Excellency President of the Supreme Court, Your Excellency President of the Honorable National Congress, dignified members of the Armed Forces of Paraguay and Bolivia, honorable members of the National Congress, ladies and gentlemen:

Today, on the anniversary of national independence, we find ourselves faced with two important events in the life of the nation which strengthen our optimism regarding the destiny of the Republic. Today, under the sun of August, we have witnessed, overwhelmed with emotion, the great moment in which two brother nations, Paraguay and Bolivia, closed once and for all the wounds of the past and decided to face together the challenges of the future. We again embraced each other as brothers, just as our dear war veterans did when the war that confronted us came to an end.

I am very happy that President Juan Carlos Wasmosy is also a witness of another event that exalts us as Bolivians. This is the agreement reached between the political forces represented in this Congress to change our Constitution democratically in accordance with the procedures established by the Constitution. This is the first time this has occurred in 169 years of republican life. All the other constitutional reforms were made by constituent assemblies after military coups. Therefore, this is a very important deed in our institutional life.

It is worth saying that this is the result of an agreement with which no one fully concurs but one regarding which we must all admit responsibility, acknowledging that it is the best we could achieve. This process goes back many years, to the permanent struggle of the regions, and the civic organizations that demanded decentralization in view of the absorbing and annoying centralization that was hurting the country.

The reforms that were approved yesterday began to develop in the agreements of 9 July 1992 when all the political parties decided to make the reforms in the Constitution based on the procedures established by the Constitution itself. This process became a reality in 1993 with the approval of the law on the need for constitutional reform with the oustanding participation of the then President Jaime Paz Zamora of the MIR [Movement of the Revolutionary Left], General Hugo Banzer Suarez of the ADN [Nationalist Democratic Action], Carlos Palenque Aviles of Condepa [Conscience of the Fatherland], and myself of the MNR [Nationalist Revolutionary Movement]. It should be pointed out that the constitutional reform that was approved yesterday had the active and decisive participation of Victor Hugo Cardenas of the MRTK-L [Tupac Katari Revolutionary Movement of Liberation], Max Fernandez Rojas of the UCS [Solidarity Civic Union], Antonio Aranibar of the MBL [Free Bolivia Movement], Oscar Eid Franco of the MIR, Jorge Landivar of the ADN, Julio Mantilla of the Patriotic Movement, Igor Kuljis of the Unity and Progress Movement, and of course the leaders of the MNR.

I would also like to point out the work done by the presidents of the Senate and the Chamber of Deputies, Juan Carlos Duran and Guillermo Bedregal respectively. But above all I would like to point out the work of all the dear congressmen. Without your work, without your endorsement, without the decision and courage of all of you, we could have not taken this step. I congratulate you, and allow me, not as head of a party or head of the government, but as head of state, to thank you on behalf of the Republic of Bolivia. [applause]

Naturally, this will not put an end to our differences but it is a clear and encouraging indication that the so-called political class is reevaluating itself in the eyes of the Bolivian people. This is a proof that we are capable of betting together for the future but not at the expense of the present.

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With the constitutional reforms, in the upcoming elections the Bolivian people will elect not only the president of the Republic but also our deputies; 50 percent of the deputies will be elected by direct vote in territorial districts, and 50 percent through the current system of proportional representation. This means that each Bolivian will have his deputy whose actions will respond directly to his electors. The prefect will no longer be restricted to complying with orders from higher up. He will manage the overall administration of the department with the support of a council. Never again will a caretaker for a department be appointed from La Paz or will the people have to come to La Paz to carry out administrative errands that can be done in their own departments. [applause]

The reforms established the right to vote at 18 years of age and the five-year presidential term without reelection except after one term has elapsed. The reforms also established the modernization of our judicial system with the creation of the Constitutional Court, which will watch over the full enforcement of our Constitution; the Council for Magistrates, which will be the administrative and disciplinary organization of the judicial branch; and the ombudsman, which will defend the rights and guarantees of the people in relation to the public administration.

For me it is a special honor and source of satisfaction to have the presence of the president of the judicial branch whom we congratulate with great sincerity because this is how we will carry out justice for all.

It is also a pleasure to have here in this Congress the brother of Bolivia, Paraguayan President Juan Carlos Wasmosy, and the illustrious members of his delegation to share our experiences, our success, and also our mistakes, for this is the real meaning of brotherhood between two nations.

In this report on the 12 months of this administration, which we labeled the year of sowing, I would like to refer to the great measures for change we began to implement with the approval of the Popular Participation, Capitalization, Educational Reform, and Ministries Laws.

The Popular Participation Law has begun to bear fruit. The municipal governments which now manage their own territory have been receiving, since last July, the co-participation resources of 20 percent of the national income to carry out their projects. Most of the resources received in one month considerably exceed the resources the municipalities used to receive in one full year. The Bolivian people who live in the provinces and in the farming areas are the ones who are getting the greatest benefits from this law because they will be able to carry out gradually their basic infrastructure projects, and manage health and education.

It is obvious that, as they know their needs better than we do, their administration will be effective because it is clear for us that the watchful eyes of the householders will benefit the people, and the eyes of the householders in this case are the vigilance committees that will be elected by the communities and that will have the task of watching over the good use of resources to prevent them from being pocketed by corrupt individuals.

It is worth pointing out that the state will continue to pay the salaries of teachers, doctors, and health workers. If the community sees that the work of these officials is not good, it can demand change. Education and health will not be privatized, and will continue to be free. [applause]

Basically, the Popular Participation Law is an instrument to reduce the gigantic gap separating the poor from the rich, the farms from the cities, and women from men. Capitalization means employment but it is a medium-term measure.

We hope the process that started with the approval of the Capitalization Law will culminate on 6 August 1995 with the privatization of the public enterprises. This is where investments will start.

With the capitalization we are not selling our main enterprises. What we are doing is looking for partners to contribute capital, technology, and an efficient administration on the grounds of an equal participation. The enterprises will thus grow by two-fold and become the force that will make the rest of our economy grow. We hope this measure will cause our promise to create 500,000 new job opportunities to materialize. The capitalization process also has a significant social aspect that radically differentiates it from a privatization process, that is, the distribution of state-owned shares to all Bolivian citizens over 18 years of age through pension funds. This will allow them to have a worthy retirement.

The education reform is the longest-term measure of all those that will change our society. Therefore, it is the most deep-rooted measure. It is useless to have the best economic and political laws if we do not have a nation capable of using them.

The education reform will help our children learn how to read in their native language, respecting the multicultural and interethnic characteristics of our society. It is absurd to teach a child who speaks Quechua, Aymara, or Guarani to read in Spanish. With the education reform he will learn to read in his native language and then will learn how to speak, read, and write in Spanish. In other words, it will be an education that will strengthen the Bolivian's identity and at the same time prepare them to live in a modern world. [applause]

The Law of Ministries was prompted by the need to solve the executive branch's lack of response to the true needs of the Bolivian people. It is the instrument with which we are going to implement the true mechanisms of changes. These measures were drafted bearing a philosophy in mind: By the Human Resources Ministry, taking into account that the human being must fully develop his skills; by the Economic Development Ministry, taking into account that our economy must grow and that we

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must better administrate our scarce resources; and by the Sustainable Development Ministry, taking into account that our environment must be preserved and we must be capable of coexisting harmoniously with nature as our predecessors did, because as a peasant stated, and I am going to repeat once again, God always forgives, human beings sometimes forgive, but nature never forgives.

We have also created the Justice Ministry convinced that a society without justice is like barren land. Unfortunately, in Bolivia, with a few exceptions, only the powerful had access to justice, and we want justice for all. [applause]

Popular participation, capitalization, the reform of the education system and of the Constitution are part of a silent revolution in which the reforms represent the cannons; the ideas the bullets; and all Bolivian citizens, without exception, the army. [applause]

These measures must be understood, accepted, and implemented by the entire society and this represents a new challenge to our capacity to compromise, to engage in dialogue.

The results of this year in which we are sowing are not insignificant nor mediocre. I myself was surprised when I read the reports from the various ministries which I have just submitted for consideration of the honorable national Congress. But the great measures have acted as a heavy curtain that has prevented us from appreciating what the government has done on a daily basis. As we draw this curtain, we find important achievements and realize we have done a lot but not enough. We still need to do a lot more.

Allow me to mention some of the achievements of this first year in power. We have lowered the fiscal deficit from 6.6 percent to 3.2 percent. The Inflation rate during the first six months of the year amounted to 2.9 percent, the lowest in the past 17 years. International reserves amount to $470 million, that is, almost double what they were on 6 August 1993; nontraditional exports during the first quarter of this year increased by 78 percent compared to 1993; hydrocarbons increased by 11.4 percent; electricity by 8.4 percent; mining by 7.5 percent; and small mining enterprises by 19 percent. GDP growth rate amounts to 4.2 percent.

In the area of health, measles have been eliminated by a vaccination campaign that covered 95 percent of that portion of the population represented by children. This represents almost 3 million children between nine months and 15 years of age.

The social investment fund has rescheduled all its work so as to face the implementation of 5,540 infrastructure project contracts in the education and health areas in 1994. In 1993, 1,476 houses were built.

These are some of the important achievements. But we know that the needs of the Bolivian people are so great that what we have achieved so far is still too little. The reason for this is that the time for harvest has not yet come. But that time will come, because to get there we are now planting the seeds of change and of participation.

Dear fellow citizens, we Bolivians are demonstrating that democracy can be a revolutionary instrument of change. We are demonstrating that we do not need to resort to violence to change our political, economic, and social structures. We are demonstrating that we can do so based on consensus and not on antagonism. We are demonstrating that with creativity, perseverance, and discipline we can achieve progress. I repeat: We are demonstrating that with creativity, perseverance, and discipline we can achieve progress. [applause]

We are trying to perfect our state of law to turn it into a state of justice where men and women will in fact show solidarity, where the poor will have the opportunity to cast off the inhuman yoke of misery, where the elderly will have a decent end of their lives, where the powerful will not be powerful with impunity, and where the wise will be heard and respected.

The day will come when the progress of nations will not be measured by their military or economic power, or by the splendor of their cities; neither will it be measured by their luxury and opulence, but by the well-being of their people; by their levels of health, nutrition, and education; by the possibility for all to have the opportunity of a dignifying job, and remuneration according to efforts; by the capacity to participate in the decisions that will affect their lives; by the respect for their civilian and political rights; by the protection of the poorest and most vulnerable people; and by the preferential attention to the physical and mental development of children.

My dear friend Juan Carlos [Wasmosy], we are working so that when that time comes, Bolivia will be among the first. Our people have the spiritual valor and strength to achieve this. Our history of struggle and sacrifice shows that we deserve a better future, the same future we wish for our Paraguayan brethren. And maybe, God willing, we will be able to mutually help each other in this grand task.

I want to end this speech by honoring the new times of brotherhood we are experiencing today, by asking you to help me say, sincerely and affectionately, and with pride: Viva Paraguay [people shout: Viva]! Viva Bolivia [people shout: Viva]! [applause]

Quiroga Admits Strength of Drug Trafficking in Chapare

PY1008112994 Cochabamba LOS TIEMPOS in Spanish 27 Jul 94 p A2

[Text] La Paz, 26 Jul (LOS TIEMPOS)—Almost three weeks after the "New Dawn" antidrug operation began, Government Minister German Quiroga admitted today that drug trafficking still has "strength and power" in the tropical zones of Bolivia.

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Showing signs of political resignation, Quiroga told a group of reporters in La Paz: "...I believe we are very far from achieving our goals. For the time being, drug trafficking has a great ability to produce and move drugs."

With the same spirit, Quiroga admitted the "small achievements" in the "eradication of surplus coca plantations and alternative development" in the first year of this administration.

Quiroga went even further in his evaluation on "strangling drug trafficking in the country" when he revealed that at least 75 to 90 percent of the illegal drugs sent abroad by Bolivia comes from the red zone of the Chapare region. This shows once again that the government has not completely recovered the legal control over that region.

By 30 September, Bolivia would have to eradicate 3,000 hectares of coca in the tropical region of Cochabamba if it wants to realize the disbursement of $20 million for its balance of payments.

In the last few hours, Minister Quiroga reported that the United States closed all possibilities for flexibility in its policy on "the eradication of surplus coca in exchange for cash for the state."

But Quiroga announced today in La Paz that President Gonzalo Sanchez de Lozada "will insist in U.S. circles on the disbursement of financial resources without diplomatic conditions."

"I believe we made an effort (with the United States) by ratifying an agreement between the two countries on coca eradication and economic disbursement" said Quiroga, who also expressed optimism when he said: "We hope after an evaluation on the results of interdiction and coca eradication is made next September, new ways of fighting drug trafficking will be developed."

Quiroga added: "I will make a great effort to fight drug trafficking not only through coca eradication but also through other variables such as preventing the smuggling of precursors." He then noted: "The Chapare red zone cannot produce drugs without chemicals."

Investment Sought for Alternative Development Projects

94WD0474A Cochabamba LOS TIEMPOS in Spanish 21 Jun 94 p A5

[Text] The Program for Regional Alternative Development (PDAR), with the advice of experts from various institutions, has developed a series of industrial and agricultural projects for which feasibility studies have already been completed and which, as a practical matter, "are waiting for initiatives and expressions of interest from those who want to develop the area."

Businessmen in the region say that the road and communications infrastructure is inadequate and that there are many limitations and high costs involved in connection with basic services—such as electricity, natural gas, water, and other facilities. They say that a legal framework is needed not only to guarantee private property and capital and the sustainable exploitation of natural resources but to provide certain tariff and tax advantages to investors who bring resources into the Chapare area and carry out the program for turning it into a development center and an industrial park.

However, officials of the PDAR, who take a less sweeping and complex view, say that the basic conditions exist for the development of the tropical area of the Department of Cochabamba, with highways and electricity already available in the different towns.

Regarding the feasibility studies already made, the PDAR has on hand projects for the production and commercial sale of plants to turn out coloring material, for which the required investment is $489,627. The preservation of citrus fruit in cold storage containers has also been proposed, at a cost of $895,900, as well as a plant for processing lactic acid and calcium lactate, which would cost about $1.7 million.

The list of projects continues with plans for a plant for producing yucca flour, which would require an investment of $769,000; a complex for the production, processing and sale of hearts of palm, costing $415,828; an industry for processing seasonings, which would require an investment of $206,860; and a plant for the extraction of resinous oils and turmeric and ginger protein, at a cost of $820,000. The experts who are promoting the overall development of the Chapare region also consider that the area is suited to raising goats, which would require an investment of $226,563. They also propose the production of angora hair for the textile industry, with an invested capital of $655,000.

Also considered feasible is the installation of a peanut processing plant, which would require an investment of $164,774, and plants for dehydrating fruit and vegetables and truck garden crops, with capital investments of $77,295 and $139,843, respectively.

These are simply marketing studies. That is, there is a guaranteed demand for these products. Feasibility studies have been done on 33 agricultural crops, such as bananas and banana byproducts, maracuya [a local fruit], yucca, hearts of palm, pork and pork byproducts, cow's milk, garlic, pepper, peaches, broad beans, and other items.

Officials of the alternative development program say that these project studies are available to interested businessmen and investors. They say that in the Chapare area, "The road to progress is waiting for investors."

Officials Comment on Speed of Reforms

94SM0416B La Paz HOY in Spanish 24 Jun 94 p 12

[Article: "Government Officials Disagree on Speed of Reforms"; first paragraph is HOY introduction]

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[Text] The Secretary of Industry and Commerce admitted that structural changes in the government are proceeding slowly, which is affecting the private sector.

The national secretary of industry and commerce, Carlos Morales, said that the structural changes the government is implementing are proceeding with a certain amount of slowness, due to their magnitude.

In recent days businessmen have complained of the government's lack of interest in the private sector, as to date Bolivian industry and exports have received no incentives.

In this context, the secretary noted: "We are not moving fast enough, and both the president and his colleagues are very much aware of this."

Major Changes

Morales said that while people support the proposed structural changes like privatization, popular participation, and reforms of the executive, they are more affected by everyday problems.

"The population is beset by their daily problems, a situation that has to be resolved as soon as possible," he noted.

Morales explained that Bolivia has the macroeconomic conditions needed to stimulate the private productive sector, and there are clear rules enabling businessmen to invest.

"The only thing still pending is the tax situation, an issue that the businessmen are rightly emphasizing, and a number of solutions are being studied," he pointed out.

National Exports Council

On the Chamber of Industry and Commerce's call to create a National Exports Council, the official explained that it has been in the approval process for about a month, but certain aspects are still being considered.

Both the public and private sectors will take part in the council, and it will enable businessmen to convey their suggestions, proposals, and promotional strategies for national industry and exports to the executive.

"The decree establishing the National Exports Council is being reviewed by a Foreign Ministry official, specifically the point about commercial attaches in Bolivian missions abroad," he said.

Privatization Proceeding Rapidly

To complete the process of privatizing public enterprises, a package of bills will be submitted to Congress in August. The Tax Law will be the first to be considered, as it is essential for new investors to know the tax situation.

The privatization of six public enterprises has entered "a very rapid phase" and timelines have now been established, said Minister of Finance Fernando Cossio, responding to private businessmen's criticisms about the alleged lagging pace of the process.

"State timelines have been established to carry forward the privatization process very rapidly; in August Congress will be sent a package of sector-specific bills to be approved," he emphasized.

On a number of occasions private businessmen have said the process is moving slowly, and they think it will take until 1996 to privatize public enterprises, or even until 2000.

Laws

In Cossio's opinion, the legislative package that will be submitted to Congress will complete the privatization process, as legal instruments are required to begin this process, and in the majority of cases, they are almost ready.

Passage of these laws is not just the duty of the executive, but also of the legislature, and in August this package will be submitted to Congress for its approval.

Law 843

The minister of finance said the Tax Law will be the first to be considered, because it is the most important of all, and these modifications are urgent so that new investors will know what the tax situation is. This is essential.

The amendments to Law 843 are related primarily to the system of transfers from YPFB [Bolivian Government Oil Deposits], said Cossio.

"The fundamental point is converting the system of transfers involving essentially the state petroleum enterprise and ENTEL [National Telecommunications Enterprise] into taxes," added the finance minister.

After this, sector-specific laws related to telecommunications and electricity, amendments to the Hydrocarbons Law, and to the Regulatory Agencies Law will be considered one by one.

Labor Leader Discusses COB Role, Reforms

94SM0417A La Paz PRESENCIA in Spanish 24 Jun 94 p 2

[Interview with Oscar Salas Moya, COB executive secretary, in "Friday Dialogue"; place and date not given]

[Text] "Friday Dialogue" is making an exception, and is interviewing the same person for a second time. He is the reelected executive secretary of the Bolivian Labor Federation (COB), Oscar Salas Moya.

Following the clash between this organization and the government on the negotiation of the consolidated list of demands submitted by the organization and the approval of the general budget of the nation, a number of analysts believe that the COB has won back some of the ground it had lost.

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Moreover, at the 10th Bolivian Workers' Congress, at which Salas was reelected, a brand new thesis was approved, one which will lead to possible changes within the COB resulting in a break with its tradition as a vanguard class body.

We talked with Oscar Salas about the course of that event, the battles that developed there, and the role the COB will play in the next two years. As is generally the case, much material had to be left for another time.

[PRESENCIA] What is your assessment of the 10th Bolivian Workers' Congress?

[Salas] Generally speaking, this congress restated the resolutions approved at the preceding ones, because the same structural adjustment measures that the workers must deal with continue to prevail in the country.

Not only do they continue to prevail, but the government of Mr. Gonzalo Sanchez de Lozada has gone ahead to implement this structural adjustment program in greater depth, so that it is becoming the law of the Republic. That fact affected the attitude of all those present at the congress, which had approved an anti-neoliberal position, very deeply.

Another very important theme discussed was the organic changes within the Bolivian Labor Federation. The debate culminated in the realization of the need to launch a much broader discussion in seminars, meetings, and assemblies, ending with an organized congress at which definitive positions on the need, or lack of it, for these changes can be adopted.

These were the two key issues discussed at the congress, and without a doubt they were the cause of minor traumas.

[PRESENCIA] What were these traumas?

[Salas] The withdrawal of the majority of those in the mining delegation and their refusal to serve on the National Executive Committee (CEN) of the COB. In addition, this group charged that this COB is progovernment. This is an unjust accusation, and from the beginning lacks justification. Whether or not the organization is progovernment will be revealed in practice, and by the attitude adopted by this COB executive body in the struggle.

[PRESENCIA] An anti-neoliberal position has been clearly set forth, but there are a number of leaders in the CEN of the COB who are also members of a party in the government. How can their election be explained?

[Salas] First, by the fact that a mistake was made by the Organic Commission. The presiding officer was a mining comrade who made the election of the candidates nominated by the sectors compulsory. This substantially reduced the ability of the congress to elect trade-union leaders capable of representing the workers in general. For, we should point out, it is not sectorial leaders, but national leaders, that we are supposed to elect. That being the case, the congress should have the right to elect leaders. However, the requirement that the sectors make the choice prevented this.

And second, these parties have without a doubt infiltrated deeply the lowest levels of the workers, because the fact that these comrades are representing them could not be explained in any other way.

[PRESENCIA] Why do you use the pejorative term "infiltration"? Are these parties prohibited from participating in the workers' movement?

[Salas] There is an explanation for this. To date, the workers' movement has played a role essentially involving challenge, with the understanding that the governments (not only this one, but the preceding ones, as well) have not represented the interests of the workers. Therefore, the presence of members of these parties in the COB would seem a somewhat alien phenomenon. This is the perception that exists in the trade-union movement. There is no doubt that it is inconsistent with the more profoundly democratic and pluralistic nature that should characterize the COB.

But a third explanation needs to be added to the preceding two. There are sectors that, because of various pressures, adopt policies coinciding with what the government wants. This is undeniable. The Ministry of Labor has intervened in a very damaging way in some labor sectors to control the trade-union leadership. We have seen this very recently, I must make it clear, because there has been recourse to methods quite foreign to the trade-union movement, such as pressure in terms of threats to dismiss workers who do not go along with these positions.

And so then, there has been an effort on the part of the political authorities to exert an illegal influence on the trade-union organizations.

[PRESENCIA] The congress has approved a new political thesis. Since this relates to the Alternative to Democratic Socialism (ASD), which you head, and whose program you are supposed to implement, could you explain the main guidelines?

[Salas] We have always tried to avoid imposing the theses of given parties on the workers' movement. For this reason, this document does not provide a precise view of the concepts of the ASD within the political movement.

It is merely a national diagnosis, an X-ray of all the existing shortcomings. We advocate the formation of a political-social bloc that can provide, through its own program, an alternative to the neoliberal model (this fact alone clearly shows that this is not a pro-government or neoliberal document, as it has been accused of being).

Second, we propose a discussion of the changes that would have to be made within the COB. We have not

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drafted definitive resolutions, but are urging an internal debate within the trade-union movement, and that has been approved.

[PRESENCIA] There are key issues in this thesis. For example the assertion that the goal is no longer the building of socialism as such, or a humanitarian society. There are also such issues as the nation, the region, and women.

[Salas] There is a central theme. We believe there is a need to build a country characterized by social justice, and to do this without imitating what the real socialism that collapsed in Eastern Europe was. We advocate a democratic socialism that has man as its focus.

We say there is a domestic colonialism that was not eliminated with the establishment of the Republic. The original native peoples—the Quechuas, Aymaras, and Tupiguaranis—continue to live under almost the same conditions as they did during the colonial era. For this reason, we assert that this domestic colonialism must be eliminated in order to create a socialist, multicultural, and multinational country.

Second, there is the need for harmonious development of the economy, as is evidenced by the regional inequalities to be seen at present. There are very depressed departments that lack the means of development. We, therefore, believe that more emphasis should be placed on overall planning, so that this situation can be changed. This will require more participation by the regions in the decisions made by the central government.

Finally, since women constitute half of the population and are participating increasingly in production and economic activity, this should be reflected in the structure on the decisionmaking levels, not only of the government but of society as a whole.

[PRESENCIA] How can these proposals be made viable, organically, in the COB?

[Salas] No decision has been made. For this reason, we are urging that these issues be discussed, with all of the components in the COB participating on an equal basis. Proposals to this effect are included in this document.

For example, it is proposed that more space be allowed in the COB for the sectors that are not represented, or that still do not occupy the place that should be theirs because of the nature of their problems, the volume of their membership, or the role they play in the economy of the country.

Another aspect is that these sectors should have greater representation on the CEN.

Third, the CEN election should be based on the importance of the leaders, and not the importance of the sectors. This would suggest that any leader in any sector could aspire to any post within the COB.

[PRESENCIA] Does this mean abandonment of the vanguard role of the mining sector?

[Salas] I do not believe that this can be established by statute. The mining sector occupies a place—and this is recognized by the majority in the workers' movement—won not only because of the number of its members, but because of the important role it plays in our country from the social and political points of view, and because of the leadership it has always provided to the COB.

These are issues that should be taken into account in this discussion. We do not believe it is possible to impose a vanguard role or hegemony based on only one of the factors. Instead all must be reconciled, and in this connection, because of the nature of its origins, the mining sector continues to be a group that meets the requirements for representing the general interests of the workers in the COB. It is not a question of the automatic or regulated displacement of some sectors by others.

Finally, on the regional issue, we have proposed the incorporation of representatives of all the Departmental Workers' Federations (CODE's) in the CEN of the COB, so that there will be better coordination between the central leadership and that of the regions.

[PRESENCIA] When might the ordered conference be convoked?

[Salas] No date has been set. The preparations for this debate must be made with great care, because the need for reforms is one thing, and how receptive the workers' movement will be to these proposals is another. The one without the other might lead to a situation that would be traumatic for the workers' movement.

[PRESENCIA] Why has the COB been stigmatized as "pro-government"?

[Salas] We have already said that this might be due to the presence of members of certain parties that are now in the government.

Second, this is a reaction on the part of sectors that have been unable to get the congress to accept their concepts of the workers' movement. They are attempting to challenge the legitimacy of the decisions made by the congress by means of these arguments.

In any case, I must tell you that prior to the election, I made an entirely disinterested proposal to the comrades in the Revolutionary Party of the People (PRP), suggesting that they take over the leadership of the COB under optimal conditions. In other words, also proposing the withdrawal of the ASD document and making it possible for them to structure a CEN capable of implementing the theses they propose.

Unfortunately, this proposal, made in all sincerity, with a view to benefiting the workers' movement, was rejected in rather unfair terms.

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There is, in addition, another background item. I did the same thing at the miners' congress in Chojlla. We withdrew completely, leaving them with an executive committee that they accepted, and we have seen the results.

[PRESENCIA] Why is this proposal being rejected now?

[Salas] This is a question I cannot answer. The only thing I can say is that they did reject it. The congress bears witness to all of this, since I was not present at the time of the election of the CEN. I had put forth this proposal in all sincerity, wholly desirous of seeing it through.

[PRESENCIA] Were there negotiations between the ASD and government sectors?

[Salas] No. Without a doubt, there were contacts with the institutions, with the oil workers, the railroad workers, etc.—institutional contacts in the trade-union sector. But in no way were there commitments of a political nature.

[PRESENCIA] How do you explain the reaction of the mining workers and the peasants to the new CEN of the COB?

[Salas] I believe that this is the opinion of a certain political faction imposed on the leadership of the mining workers. I do not believe it represents the thinking of all of the miners.

Where the peasants are concerned, this is not an official position adopted by the General Trade Union Confederation of Peasant Workers of Bolivia (CSUTCB). All of the CSUTCB representatives were elected by the entire peasant delegation, and the names of those nominated by the confederation have been accepted.

[PRESENCIA] What will you do to persuade the mining workers to return to the CEN of the COB?

[Salas] They and all of the comrades who have doubts about the conduct of this CEN can only be persuaded by the facts. There is no other way. A public debate to air the differences would be very damaging to the workers' movement. It will only be necessary to look to the facts to judge the conduct of the COB.

I remember that the same thing happened in Sucre. They also accused me of being "progovernment," and the result is known. At the end of the preceding term, we handed over a COB entirely different from the one we inherited. We could deny the assertions that the COB no longer had a following and did not represent the workers. We returned the COB to its rightful status. This was the greatest triumph during our last administration, and now we are trying to repeat this effort.

[PRESENCIA] How do you see the work of the COB in the next two years?

[Salas] The role of the COB is a difficult one, in view of the nature of the government with which we have to deal. We must take into account, as a justification for the actions of the COB, the fact that no one—no one—in our country can say that the implementation of this model since 1985 has brought any benefit to the majority of the population. On the contrary, poverty is growing worse. And so we see still more burdens for the people in the future.

There is nothing haphazard about the energetic advice put forth by the representatives of the United States at recent international meetings. They have recommended more drastic steps in reducing the fiscal deficits and regarding monetary policies. This will cause the people greater suffering.

Some macro-results can be demonstrated, but where are the macro-results for the people? There is an increase in production, in the GDP [gross domestic product], etc., etc., but the people are growing poorer, unemployment is rising with every passing day, and young people entering the labor market cannot find jobs anywhere. This leads is even more poverty, crime, and an inclination toward illegal activities.

I believe that these results, not only in our country but throughout the world, demonstrate ever more convincingly that this model is not working to the benefit of man, but rather to the benefit of the small groups that dominate society.

And we are not the only ones saying this. There are bodies with recognized international reputations in the economic and social fields warning of the same thing, and recommending that major changes be made in this policy in the social sector, which I would call perverse. Because they can see with increasing clarity that the pursuit of this policy at any cost will at some time result in social outbursts.

This is what is happening in the country, and in this connection, the COB, if it is to have validity, must become the representative, the voice, and the strength of the poorest sectors in our country.

This is our role, and we cannot abandon it.

Other Issues

Consistent with the usual practice, we asked Oscar Salas Moya, the reelected executive secretary of the Bolivian Labor Federation, about the positions the trade-union body will adopt on capitalization, popular participation, and the education reforms.

On the issue of capitalization, he said that this measure does not have to do with the real situation in the state enterprises, which in his view are making an important contribution to the country. It is rather the result of the impositions of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank, "which have adopted domination of the economies of other countries through the imposition of the dictatorship of the free market as a global policy."

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For this reason, he said, "It is not the government projects that will be carried out in fact. The policy pursued will be totally harmful, because putting the fate of domestic development in the hands of foreign enterprises has never yielded good results in any part of the world, especially when poor countries are involved. These enterprises are not going to come to develop our country, but rather for the same reason they have always come to poor countries—in order to take out as much profit as possible for their home offices, which are located in the highly developed countries."

But, he was asked, would it not be well, if the reality shows that this process will inevitably come about, for the COB to seek participation, so that the process will be as honest and beneficial as possible?

"The COB has been accused of being nothing but an opposition body, opposed to everything, saying no to everything, and never presenting a proposal with a view to achieving a consensus," Salas responded. But he gave assurance that since the last administrative term, the COB has sought to contribute. The clearest example of this has been its participation in the National Education Council.

But, Salas asked, "What has happened? The government has accorded the COB absolutely unfair treatment. We have simply been ignored, and that is what is going to happen with the implementation of all of these laws. We are aware of this."

Popular Participation

In connection with the Popular Participation Law, Salas admitted that "the popular movement has always said that the essence of democracy lies in the participation of the people in the major decisions affecting the country. This is a principle we have never renounced, and this fact seems to be in contradiction with our opposition to the Popular Participation Law."

Salas explained that this contradiction is resolved when the law is analyzed. The executive branch is using it to "try to establish control over society over the long term," because, on the one hand, it will be the prefects and the subprefects who recognize the legal status of the Base Territorial Organizations (OTB's). On the other hand, Salas asked, "What are the issues with which the OTB's and the supervisory councils will deal? They are the questions encountered in everyday life. But what about participation in the major decisions affecting the fate of the country? These decisions will be monopolized by and channeled solely and exclusively through the political party structure, which distorts the democratic process."

When asked whether these perceptions are not really an expression of the inability of the organized popular forces to implement their program, Salas said that "the opportunities for participation by the popular bodies are minimal. The civic committees are persuaded that this measure is designed to weaken their representative capacity and legitimacy. The same is true of the trade-union organizations. Thus the law is designed to associate the concept of popular participation with the single individual who has no capacity to rally public opinion, and to exclude the organized citizenry."

Education Reform

Finally, with regard to the Education Reform Law, Salas said that many attempts were made to reach a consensus with the executive branch, both prior to and during its debate in the Chamber of Deputies, but that no good result could be obtained because of the inflexibility of the government. However, he admitted that this law is important for the entire country, and he would like its treatment to be more open. For this reason, Salas said that the efforts to reach agreement will continue while the Senate debates the draft law, even though "the proposals that have been made would simply safeguard some of the rights of the teachers and the universities, nothing more."

Brazil

Government Expenditures Indicate 1995 Deficit

PY1008145994 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 8 Aug 94 p 17

[Text] Brasilia—Preliminary data on the 1995 budget indicate a 20 percent revenue drop in 1994. This makes it impossible to ensure a salary equalization for public employees, as President Itamar Franco is calling for. According to economic area sources, the first stage only of the equalization proposed by the Administrative Secretariat would represent an increase in expenditures of 1.5 billion reals [R] for the public coffers in 1995, in addition to the R24 billion expected for this year.

Preliminary studies indicate the factors that will reduce tax revenues in 1995: the elimination in December of the Provisional Tax on Financial Operations; and the decrease in revenues collected on financial applications, as a result of zero inflation and the inflationary profit resulting from tax corrections.

On the side of expenditures, there will be additional pressure on the Welfare Ministry list of expenses, as a result of the decision to increase the minimum wage to $70 in September and rulings that do not favor the federal government.

The government's objective is to maintain in 1995 the same budget austerity proposed for 1994, without increasing the level of expenses ($98 billion). The federal government, however, does not have any other formulas for preventing a deficit in public accounting during the first year of the new administration.

In an effort to increase revenue the economic team proposes speeding up the process for the sale of federal government assets through privatization. The tax collection effort is deemed an objective, and not an option, to

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compensate for the lack of resources. There will also be pressure on the Finance Ministry Attorney's Office to speed up the sub judice tax collection processes (such as that involving social security contributions), as well as that involving its own active debt.

President Itamar Franco has already received from Planning Minister Beni Veras the preliminary data prepared by the Federal Budget Secretariat and the Finance Ministry. This week the president will indicate to the economic team which alternatives he chooses, so that the budget can be drafted by the Federal Budget Secretariat and then sent to Congress.

PL Presidential Candidate Withdraws From Race

PY1008150894 Sao Paulo AGENCIA ESTADO in Portuguese 1428 GMT 10 Aug 94

[Text] Brasilia, 10 Aug (AE)—At a news conference Liberal Party [PL] President Alvaro Valle has just presented to the press Flavio Rocha's letter of resignation as the PL presidential candidate. Rocha was affected by charges of having received irregular campaign contributions through electoral bonds. Valle said Rocha submitted his resignation to the party this morning. Valle added that talks have already begun within his party to decide what course of action the PL will take regarding the elections. He admitted that most "requests and support" within the PL are in favor of Fernando Henrique Cardoso, presidential candidate for the Brazilian Social Democracy Party-Liberal Front Party-Brazilian Labor Party coalition. He noted, however, that some sectors favor Orestes Quercia and Esperidiao Amin.

SAE Said To Know Franco's Nephew Used Cocaine

PY1108032494 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 10 Aug 94 p 11

[Article by Ascanio Seleme]

[Text] Brasilia—The Strategic Affairs Secretariat [SAE] knew that Ariosto Franco consumed cocaine. SAE agents monitored the steps of President Itamar Franco's nephew to avoid serious embarassment in the event he was suddenly and improbably arrested by the Federal Police. According to Brazilian and Colombian diplomats, the SAE also knew, from the very beginning, the contents of the death certificate stating that Ariosto Franco had died of a cocaine overdose.

Planalto Palace yesterday confirmed that it only recognizes the first death certificate, which was drafted the day Ariosto Franco died: 15 June. Members of the Colombian Foreign Ministry in Bogota yesterday reported that only Planalto Palace will learn the result of the pathological tests conducted by the Cartagena Legal Medicine Institute, the city where Ariosto Franco died.

The same sources do not hide, however, that the new Colombian Government, which was installed at the end of last week, was interested in informally letting details of Ariosto Franco's death certificate stating that he had died of a cocaine overdose become known. The new Colombian president, Ernesto Samper, allegedly ignored the informal agreement reached by the two countries' officials about keeping absolute secrecy with regard to the certificate. The agreement, however, was not confirmed by either side.

According to what Colombian officials told O GLOBO yesterday, the new government is interested in proving to the United States that it is not involved with the cocaine barons. In his inauguration speech, Samper said that he will fight drug trafficking and will run over whoever obstructs his path toward this goal.

The Colombian Government, especially the security and intelligence sectors, were irritated with the Brazilian officials who suggested that Ariosto Franco might have been poisoned. The Colombians said that this hypothesis was like pressing charges against those responsible for the security of the presidential summit organized in Cartagena. Rumors, which concerned the SAE, began spreading the week President Franco's nephew died. According to members of the Cartagena District Attorney's Office, the SAE knew the contents of the death certificate.

Chile

Cooperation Agreement Signed With Cuba

PY1008160694 Santiago LA TERCERA DE LA HORA in Spanish 31 Jul 94 p 22

[Article by Patricia Schuller]

[Excerpt] Chilean medical doctors will as of now be able to learn from and exploit Cuban scientific and health experience thanks to a reciprocal cooperation agreement signed yesterday between the Santiago Regional Council of the Chilean Medical Association and the "Carlos Finlay" Institute of Havana.

A symposium on "meningococcal disease" ended with the signing of this agreement. The symposium was held for two days at the Medical Association Club, with the participation of Dr. Gustavo Sierra, the creator of the Cuban antimeningitis B-type vaccine; Dr. Cavil Farhat, professor at the Sao Paulo School of Brazilian Medicine; and Chilean doctors Patricia Gassibe, Loriana Castillo, and Cecilia Sepulveda, among others. This symposium was organized by the Santiago Regional Council.

Dr. Juan Luis Castro, chairman of this latter organization, reported that through this agreement the two organizations promised their scientific and academic cooperation in the areas of research, teaching, publication, and exchange.

"We have signed an agreement of reciprocal cooperation in the academic and scientific field in all areas developed by the Finlay Institute. Within the next few days we are

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going to prepare a scientific and academic program that will include the training of Chilean professionals in the Cuban health program, and especially in the areas of vaccination and biological development," he said. [passage omitted]

Contract With Paraguayan Military Industries Formalized

PY1008160994 Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 29 Jul 94 p C5

[Text] Brigadier General Luis Iracabal Lobo, director of the Chilean Army Ordnance (Famae), has formalized a contract with the Paraguayan Military Industries to provide ammunition to the Chilean Army.

Iracabal Lobo returned on 27 July to our country after having held a number of meetings with Paraguayan Defense Ministry officials.

The Famae director held a meeting with Paraguayan Defense Minister Hugo Estigarribia Elizeche on Monday, 25 July.

The contract includes the dedication of a new military factory, subordinate to the Asuncion government, in the town of Piribebuy, 80 Km east of Asuncion.

The report states that this factory will be dedicated exclusively to manufacturing shells [cartuchos de proyectiles] for the Chilean Army.

Colombia

Coffee Growers Cautious About 'Bonanza'

94P21057 Santa Fe de Bogota EL ESPECTADOR in Spanish 24 Jul 94 p 13A

[Article by Jairo Castro Eusse: "Coffee Bonanza: A Deceptive Smile"]

[Text] The producers do not accept the expression [coffee bonanza]. They reject it and say that by using this term the communications media is creating a completely false impression. They say it is raising the cost of living in the coffee zone and generating speculation regarding the wages to be paid for harvesting which will begin in mid-August or early September in most coffee growing regions.

Coffee growers acknowledge that the outlook has changed but not so much that people should get any false notions, because the money they expect to earn will go almost entirely toward paying debts, and, if there is any left, toward improving the fields for the next harvest. But they do not discount the fact that if prices were to continue at this level it would be a bonanza.

For now, there is a sense of expectation but not security. They say that four years ago they operated at a loss, so what is coming now is compensation.

Generally speaking, people are satisfied and content. It was hoped that the lower limit of the range within which coffee prices will fluctuate until March—with readjustments depending upon international prices—would be somewhat higher, perhaps even 20,000 pesos, but they acknowledge being close to that when the international price reaches two dollars per pound.

Producers agree in their prediction that this harvest will not exceed 11 million sacks, which will be 20 percent less than last year, due, among other things, to the "broca" [an insect which attacks coffee plants]. It has spread thoughout the coffee region of Quindio Department which, because of its flat topography, is like one large coffee plantation. In Risaralda and Caldas Departments the broca has had a devastating effect.

Fortunately, climatic changes in Colombia do not the damage coffee crops as they do in Brazil, and producers predict good weather for the coming harvest.

There has not been the shortage of water which can thwart the ripening of the beans although in some parts this phenomenon has resulted in an increase in beans of inferior quality.

The coffee growers said people cannot speak of a bonanza because for the past four years they have been in debt. That is to say making due in order to continue the work in the fields. And they estimate that it be another four years before they can pay their debts.

The executive director in charge of the Quindio Departmental Committee, Cesar Cortes Lopez, recognized that the coffee sector has already shown signs of poverty, which is reflected in the town markets, and even in the bars because a large part of the laborers' pay ends up there on the weekends. In the sales or purchases of goods and in the stores, coffee prices are beginning to have a strong impact, especially in Quindio which is heavily dependent on this product. It is the economy.

With regard to the labor force, Cortes said they do not discount the possibility that there could be difficulties because the sower, the harvester, and the day worker will ask for higher wages.

The problem, he added, is that there are no funds simply because the money is not here yet. It all depends on the harvest.

Even after the coffee has been harvested, it is not sold immediately. There is a post-harvest period and the beans must be dried and sold. Lopez concluded that people cannot speak in terms of a recovery until the end of the year.

He said the psychological aspect is very important for growers as a consequence of the bad situation they have been facing until now. He said he hopes that within six or seven months there could be some relief and that they can exchange their bitterness for hope.

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Venezuela

Foreign Minister on Status of Haiti Effort

PA1008202894 Caracas Venevision Television Network in Spanish 1030 GMT 10 Aug 94

[Interview with Foreign Minister Miguel Angel Burelli Rivas by Carlos Fernandes, host of the "24 Hours" Program, in the station's studios in Caracas—live]

[Excerpts] [Fernandes] During a news conference yesterday, the foreign minister of Venezuela revealed the general outlines of Venezuela's position on the Haitian issue. But, Dr. Burelli, there are still doubts about what the final U.S. position will be. Moreover, many people harbor doubts about Venezuela's initiative to prevent an invasion, perhaps through a multinational force. What do you think?

[Burelli] Unfortunately, yesterday one newspaper—but fortunately only one—claimed that Venezuela's attempt failed. This is because certain sectors in this country are sort of pleased to see everything go down the drain and find pleasure in not recognizing that things have any value. Their attitude is: if things are in bad shape, let them be that way.

This does not happen in Mexico, Chile, and Colombia, where patriotic efforts are viewed by the fatherland and the people as a collective effort, especially when there is the light of generosity trying to prevent a tragedy. Not only has the initiative not failed, but the echo and resonance of its meaning have increased.

[Fernandes] And perhaps those countries that in the beginning agreed with a military invasion of Haiti....

[Burelli, interrupting] Certain countries...[pauses] notice that Argentina had promised weapons and vessels; it is no longer promising them. According to news reports, it would not participate in the initial phase of the operation, which involves the invasion, but in the second or third phase, which involve peaceful actions to help that country recover.

Thus, the Venezuelan initiative or proposal is still in place and in very good shape and awaiting an agreement that is being drafted by the foreign ministers before they visit Port-au-Prince as soon as the military men agree to hold talks with us to reach a formula allowing them to leave immediately.

[Fernandes] Do you think that the military men in the Haitian Government will finally accept the presence of the foreign ministers to attain that peace that is so necessary and to prevent an extreme measure such as a military invasion?

[Burelli] I trust that...[pauses] They welcomed similar missions in the past, but the finger was not on the trigger as it is now. There was a negotiation and a time period to play with that does not exist today. The important thing is to assure them that they will have a refuge after leaving, and also, we need to have the United States announce, for example, that the money earmarked for the invasion, which is an enormous sum, would be channelled immediately to improve the depressing situation of the Haitian people.

[Fernandes] Do you think that this sort of reciprocity that the U.S. Government is proposing now as an alternative, or as a simple proposal, for the military men to withdraw from power makes any sense? It makes sense—but is it solid enough to entice the Haitian military men to withdraw from power?

[Burelli] If the offer matched the amount that would be spent on a (?very expensive intervention), the people themselves would pressure the military men in the hope that this aid will reach them. If the amount of the aid were as significant as the cost of an invasion...[pauses] Let's assume that it might cost $1.5 billion. This would be a significant proposal to help the Haitians. The Haitian people would help pressure the military men into a timely exit.

[Fernandes] Do you have clear or defined signs from Haitian military men that they are willing to negotiate even though there has been no formal conversation? Will Mr. Cedras simply want to wait until December, the deadline established to withdraw from administrative power?

[Burelli] We see some signs. We are trying to make contacts, which cannot be official, because, as you know, any diplomatic contact would imply recognition. [passage omitted]

[Fernandes] We do not want a return to the old big stick policy, right?

[Burelli] Of course not, but we have to act in a concerted manner. Look, we will be respected to the extent that we are worthy of respect.

[Fernandes] Nevertheless, in some way, decisions by the U.S. Administrations tend to influence, in a very particular way, some Latin American governments and presidents. This is not only the case at this time but in previous periods, and sometimes it is very difficult to obtain the concerted action to which you referred.

[Burelli] Look, the U.S. Governments, just like the governments of all the important countries in all regions of the world, have enormous influence. I understand that this influence is very important and that it has had and has this influence. But each country has its sovereignty and must use it rationally, without having to ask permission from anyone. As Artigas used to say: with liberty, I neither fear nor offend. We have a responsibility to this country. It is our country, with a territory, with a population and a history. Let us exercise our sovereingty, without having to consult anyone.

[Fernandes] The problem that always exists is that in the face of any situation in any Latin American or Caribbean

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country, especially if it is a political crisis or domestic unrest, someone always says: Well, perhaps the United States is not going to permit such and such a thing or perhaps the United States is not going to permit the development of events in such and such a way. Remember, just two years ago in our country, there was even talk about a U.S. military presence because of Venezuela's political instability and because of what our country represents within the strategic and geopolitical interests of the United States.

[Burelli] That might be the case elsewhere, but I think Venezuela is the least submissive country in the entire region. We have always maintained our very own Venezuelan position. We have not refrained from doing something because it might not be approved somewhere else. Throughout our history, we have done what we thought must be done, and we have been respected for doing so.

[Fernandes] In any case, even though it is not easy to make predictions, especially in such a delicate situation, a deadline is needed for a decision by the Haitian military authorities and also by the U.S. Government and the forces....

[Burelli, interrupting] And Aristide.

[Fernandes] Of course.

[Burelli] Aristide is the elected president. Aristide represents the constitutionality we want to restore. He also has to yield a little in his position. Now then, if the initiative is successful, it would be a great relief for the United States to dismantle its preparations and reduce the pressure that is playing such a big role in its domestic politics. If the mission is not successful, it will be one more argument for the United States to explain that it did everything possible, including this mission, and it was not successful. In any case, not being successful does not mean a failure because generosity is never a failure, and all Latin American countries have the duty to play this card up to the last moment it can be played.

[Fernandes] Now then, what role might the U.S. Congress play? The Senate is in the process of issuing a statement. It is important to know what the U.S. legislative branch thinks about all this.

[Burelli] We, as the Venezuelan state, cannot issue an opinion about what Congress is going to decide. We view with interest the opinions being voiced in the discussions about the legality of the intervention, about the positions of the legislative and executive branches, and the differences among the diverse U.S. Government departments. But we think the important thing is to find a Latin American solution to a Latin American crisis. [passage omitted]

Ministers' Plan To Meet Haitian Leaders Noted

PA1008220194 Caracas EL UNIVERSAL In Spanish 10 Aug 94 p 1-12

[Report by Enrique Hernandez]

[Text] Venezuela's proposal to prevent unilateral armed intervention in Haiti by leading a mission of foreign ministers that will travel to that Central American [as published] nation has received support from various Latin American Governments.

Foreign Affairs Minister Miguel Angel Burelli Rivas made this announcement last night in a news conference. He said Venezuela's Foreign Affairs Ministry has devised a plan of action that is now being implemented. Talks have been held with various Latin American Foreign Ministries to determine when a foreign ministers mission will travel to Haiti.

Foreign Minister Burelli Rivas noted that a meeting of Ibero-American foreign ministers, including the foreign ministers of Spain and Portugal, was recently held in Santa Fe de Bogota. Despite the fact that the meeting had been called to discuss the logistics and agenda of the Ibero-American summit, Burelli Rivas took time to explain Venezuela's proposal on Haiti—namely, that a mission of foreign ministers meet with Haiti's military leaders in a last-ditch effort to try to prevent an invasion.

In addition, Burelli Rivas noted that Venezuela's proposal stands no chance of being defeated, because, even though it may not succeed, it will be a timely action. He noted generosity never fails, adding that he hopes most countries endorse this proposal and that the mission that is to travel to Haiti be formed within the next few days. The mission's objective is to make the military leaders understand that Haiti must observe the UN Security Council mandate, which requires the departure of the military leaders to prevent an invasion.

The foreign affairs minister explained that if successful, the Venezuelan action will relieve enormous pressure from any superpower that might be forced to resort to the use of force.

The mission that will travel to Haiti will consist of between five and seven foreign ministers who will inform Haiti's military leaders that this is the last mission they will receive, because the finger is on the trigger. He added that the mission will also inform Haiti's rulers of places in which they could seek asylum.

Banks' Losses Reach 140 Billion Bolivares

PA1008231494 Caracas EL NACIONAL in Spanish 9 Aug 94 p E-1

[Text] Gustavo Roosen today told the media that the losses incurred by the ailing banks have risen to 140 billion bolivares. It also was learned that the government's recovery plan includes the transfer of 94 percent of these banks' stocks to the government, as proposed by Fogade [Deposit Guarantee and Banking Protection Fund]. These stocks will be converted into long-term bonds when buyers for the banks are found.

The authorities believe it will not be necessary for the state to take over any more banking institutions, despite

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the losses reported by the banks being monitored, because the stockholders of these institutions have agreed to actively participate in a four-month capitalization plan, after which the government will declare the banks to be virtually "sound."

Meanwhile, a meeting planned by the National Banking Council [CBN] to select the financial sector's representatives to Fogade's Board of Directors was canceled at the last minute.

Jose Bouza Izquierdo, president of the CBN and president of the Banco de Venezuela, met at noon yesterday with the vice presidents and top executives of the Banco de Venezuela to whom he explained the CBN's position. Later, he went to the main branch of the Central Bank of Venezuela, and when he left the premises he made no comment to the media.

A special session of the Venezuelan Banking Association is scheduled tomorrow to choose its new officers. The list is headed by Jose Maria Nogueroles, president of the Banco Provicial, as well as Bernardo Velutini, Ignacio Salvatierra, and Roman Garcia Machado.

French Guiana

Ariane Rocket Places 2 Satellites in Orbit

PA1108014294 Paris AFP in Spanish 0002 GMT 11 Aug 94

[Excerpt] Kourou, French Guiana, 11 Aug (AFP)—An Ariane rocket has successfully placed into orbit two telecommunications satellites, the Brasilsat-B1 and the Turksat-1B, according to officials at the Kourou Space Center in French Guiana.

The Brasilsat-B1 was catapulted from the Ariane booster 20 minutes and 36 seconds after the launching of the European rocket, which blasted off at 2305 GMT from the Kourou installations. The Brazilian satellite entered a geostationary orbit at 36,000 km above the earth. The Turkish satellite was placed into a similar orbit 25 minutes after the launch. [passage omitted]

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